

Sudbury Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting Held Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012

Present: John Sklenak, Chairman; Richard Bell; Sharon Rizzo; Beth Armstrong

Pantry Brook Farm Conservation Restrictions

Commissioners reviewed the new draft of both the East and West Pantry Brook Farm Conservation Restriction documents and maps. The outstanding issues from their December 3rd review included:

1. Forestry Management should only be for the purposes of forest health and not for a timbering operation.

This was addressed with added language that permit only 5 cords of wood to be cut for family use and that timbering operations may only be done to protect forest health and then only with approval of the Grantees.

2. The language pertaining to the obligation to mow the fields if the Grantor fails to do so. should not allow the Grantees to mow and not be able to charge for an activity that is the responsibility of the Grantor.

Specific language making it clear the Grantees would do the mowing “at their sole expense” is to be eliminated. There are provisions in the documents that obligate the Grantor to maintain the area to function in accordance with the “Purposes” section. Legal recourse is available to enforce the documents.

3. Commissioners did not like the open-ended ability to “improve” scenic vistas.

The wording was amended to only permit “maintaining” scenic vistas.

4. Restoration of previously open fields was a concern in areas where there is now designated Priority Habitat.

The Priority Habitat was designated for a species (American bittern) that is not likely to inhabit the area is question for field expansion. The Notice and Approval section should cover other concerns that might be raised in the future with this change in use.

On a motion by John Sklenak; 2nd by Richard Bell, the Commission voted unanimously in favor of “accepting the conservation restriction for Pantry Brook East and Pantry Brook West in accordance with the 12/11/2012 draft documents with final amendments reflecting the above four issues; of signing the associated Municipal Certifications, and signing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts LAND Grant Project Agreement”.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm.