

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 4, 2021  
APPROVED: JULY 1, 2021**

Chair Don Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:08pm, virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A §20, under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw

**Members Present:** Don Ritchie, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Joanne Ward, Jim Burns, and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (Land Use Boards Administrator/Conservation Agent), Bob O'Shea (Parks & Recreation Commission), Lucy Wallace, Michelle Girard, Don Osmer, Peter Dorward, Jim Lee, Keith Bilafer, Tom Cotton (Deer Management Subcommittee), Bob Douglas (Deer Management Subcommittee), Daniel Tracey, Ben Urquhart (Deer Management Subcommittee), John Lee and Brandon Ducharme (Ross Associates, Inc.)

**Request to Support Nashua-Squannacook-Nissitissit Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council Forest Legacy Project – Michele Girard & Lucy Wallace**

Michele Girard and Lucy Wallace, the Harvard representatives for the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council were present to discuss their hope to have the Conservation Commission support the Forest Legacy Project (FLP) the Council is working on. Ms. Girard further explained the goal is to include properties in the nine communities of the Nashua River Watershed. The program requires that either the land in fee or a conservation restriction on the property is held by a public entity; State or local municipality. The Council is working with individuals who have experience with FLP to help guide this project along. There are several properties here in Town that are being targeted for preservation through this program. Parcels must be 25 acres or more, with 75% of the parcel in forest. Parcels can be anywhere in Town, but might be best to focus on those within the watershed. If a parcel is accepted their needs to be a forest legacy plan; active forestry or to do nothing depending on its value (i.e., habitat) and should be accessible to the public unless there are extenuating circumstances.

After a brief discussion, Wendy Sisson made a motion to support the Nashua-Squannacook-Nissitissit Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council Forest Legacy Project by maintaining land in fee or by conservation restriction, as necessary. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye, Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Jim Burns, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

**Land Stewardship Subcommittee Forestry Update**

An update was not available for this evening.

**Deer Management Recap as of January 2021**

Eve Wittenberg had provided the Commission with a brief summary of the season from the hunter's log. Ms. Wittenberg stated the program ran October through December, with one buck taken throughout the season. Twelve hunters visited the approved hunting locations. Two hunters accounted for 55% of the visits, with eighteen hunters did not log any visits. Ms. Wittenberg stated this is just a snap shot of the log and not the definitive report of the program. The Daman/Stephenson land was the most visited location; this site opened earlier as it is in Zone 10, so as expected that site had more visits early on. Wendy Sisson thanked Ms. Wittenberg for compiling this data. The Commission looks forward to learning more from the Deer Management Subcommittee. When asked, Bob Douglas, chair of DMS, was not sure if the report will be ready for the next meeting.

**Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing - Estate of Anthony L. Graceffa, 204 Ayer Road, DEP#699, Harvard#0121-04.** Opened at 7:30pm

**Zoning Board of Appeals Request for Comments – 108 West Bare Hill Road**

The Commission had no comments on this application.

**Approve Minutes**

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 1, October 15 and November 5, 2020 as drafted. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye, Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; and Jim Burns, aye.

**Review 310 CMR 10.03(3) - Presumption Concerning 310 CMR 15.000: The State Environmental Code, Title 5**

This item was passed over this evening.

**Update on Pine Hill Village Stow Road**

Activity at Pine Hill Village includes the completion of the houses in Pine Bank, installation of the foundations in Tuck Way and the public water system. With mud season upon us, Wendy Sisson questioned if the site was stable enough to handle a large rain event. Don Ritchie stated he thought the site was well protected. Mr. Ritchie will review the site next week.

**Notice of Intent Hearing – Parks & Recreation Commission Harvard#0221-02.** Opened at 7:45pm

**Adjournment**

Jim Burns made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye, Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Jim Burns, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS**

- Conservation Commission Agenda, dated March 4, 2021
- Sewage Disposal System Estate of Anthony L. Graceffa, 204 Ayer Road Harvard, MA Job No. 33541, Plan No. L-14179, prepared by David E. Ross Associates, Inc., dated January 2021
- DRAFT Harvard Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting, October 1, 2020, prepared by Liz Allard
- DRAFT Harvard Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting, October 15, 2020, prepared by Liz Allard
- DRAFT Harvard Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting, November 5, 2020, prepared by Liz Allard
- Attachment to Generic Notice of Intent for Field & Trail Operation and Maintenance Activities for Harvard Parks & Recreation Commission, dated 2/18/21

**Harvard Conservation Commission  
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing  
Estate of Anthony L. Graceffa, 204 Ayer Road,  
DEP#699, Harvard#0121-04  
March 4, 2021**

The public hearing was opened at 7:30pm by Chair Don Ritchie under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and the Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A §20.

**Members Present:** Don Ritchie, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Joanne Ward, Jim Burns, and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent) and Brandon Ducharme (Ross Associates, Inc.)

This hearing was continued from February 18, 2021 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of the Estate of Anthony L. Graceffa for the construction of a replacement sewage disposal system within 100' of a wetland resource area at 204 Ayer Road, Harvard.

Brandon Ducharme, of Ross Associates, stated he and members of the Commission reviewed the site yesterday. Mr. Ducharme explained the wetland resource area is located in the rear of the property and the proposed plan details the installation of a septic system at the front of the property. The activity within the wetland buffer zone is the force main for the system, which runs along the property line.

Paul Willard made a motion to close the hearing and issue an order of conditions with the additional special condition detailing the wetland flagging was only approved up to wetland flag A11, any activity beyond the installation of the septic system will require a new filing with the Commission. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye, Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye and Jim Burns, aye;

New leach field  
Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission  
Notice of Intent Hearing  
Parks & Recreation Commission, Harvard#0221-02  
March 4, 2021**

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**Members Present:** Don Ritchie, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Joanne Ward, Jim Burns, and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent), Bob O'Shea (Parks & Recreation Commission), Keith Bilafer

This hearing is for a Notice of Intent filed by Harvard Parks & Recreation Commission for the generalized operation and maintenance of parks and recreation fields and trails within 100' of a wetland resource area at the following locations: 19 & 34 Lancaster County Rd, 55 & 71 Depot Rd, Ann Lees Rd, 14 & 27 Mass Ave, and 4 & 15 Pond Rd, Harvard Harvard.

Bob O'Shea stated the application is to establish the maintenance and general activities on the playing fields within 100' of any wetland resource area; similar to the application completed by the Department of Public Works. A discussion of which version of the Field & Trail Operation and Maintenance Activities was to be approved was had. It was agreed with the need to continue this hearing in order to obtain a Department of Environmental Protection file number, Mr. O'Shea will work with the Conservation Agent and Chair on the Field & Trail Operation and Maintenance Activities.

Joanne Ward made a motion to continue the hearing to March 18, 2021 at 8:15pm. Jim Burns seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye, Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Jim Burns, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent