

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 2, 2022
APPROVED: MARCH 16, 2022**

Chair Don Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, virtually, pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on July 16, 2022, under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw

Members Present: Don Ritchie, Eve Wittenberg, Paul Willard (departed at 7:40pm), Joanne Ward and Mark Shaw

Others Present: Liz Allard (Conservation Agent), Shawn MacDonald and Jefferson Burson (Climate Initiative Committee)

Planning Board Request for Comments – 60 Old Shirley Road

The Commission had no comments on this application.

Zoning Board of Appeals Request for Comments – 184 Ayer Road

The Commission had no comments on this application.

Approve Minutes

Eve Wittenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of November 3, 2022 as amended. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Mark Shaw, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Eve Wittenberg, aye; Paul Willard, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Approve Invoices

There were no invoices for approval this evening.

Review Amendments of the Memorandum of Understanding for Ann Lee Field from Parks & Recreation Commission

With the Parks & Recreation Commission unable to meet this week this item was passed over.

State Ethics Training – March 14, 2023 6-8pm

The Town Clerk has contacted members of the Commission who are not up-to-date on the State's required ethics training and strongly encourages attendance of all volunteers and staff at this event. Liz Allard will follow-up with the Town Clerk on the option of attending virtually.

Climate Action Plan: Natural Resources

- Priority Action - Educate and advise residents on the management of private land near/in wetlands and sustainable invasive species management
 - A library of education materials is being gathered for inclusion on the Commission's page of the Town's website to assist with educating the public
- Understanding Lead Committee Role with Jefferson Burson
 - After discussing the Commission's level of uneasiness of having to be the Lead Committee to other Boards and Committees within the Natural Resource section of the Climate Action Plan, the Commission and Jefferson Burson agreed the Commission would only be responsible for the implementation of the priority actions assigned to them.
 - It was also agreed that under the priority action item "Educate residents on sustainable practices for lawn care, landscaping, tree care, invasive species management, and water management

during drought conditions” the Commission is only responsible to educate residents on sustainable invasive species management.

2023 Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council Grant Proposal – Mapping Culvert Locations

Liz Allard informed the Commission that grant funding has been provided for the mapping of all catch basins and culverts with the Town of Harvard as part of a larger project to replace outdated culverts with those that are compliant with Stream Crossing Standards. Ms. Allard will be provided training from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission on the process for collecting the data to be used to create the map.

Pine Hill Village Update

As-built plans of Phase 2 have been received as required, in order for the developer to receive Certificates of Occupancy. A site visit was conducted last week with Steve Ventresca, of Nitsch Engineering; with a report received earlier this week. The reports details items that need to be addressed by the developer. The Building Commissioner has indicated there are a number of items to be addressed within the units in as well.

Liz Allard had been informed that snow was being plowed across Stow Road. With additional snow coming this weekend Ms. Allard requested a member visit the site on Sunday to ensure snow is being stored as required by the approved plans. Joanne Ward stated she could do so; Ms. Allard will provide her with the appropriate plan.

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Yvonne Chern, 203 Ayer Road, DEP#177-711, Harvard#0322-01. Opened at 7:43pm.

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing –Rainer Park, 7 Peninsula Road, Harvard#0223-01. Opened at 7:45pm

Adjournment

Joanne Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Mark Shaw, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Eve Wittenberg, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Conservation Commission Agenda, dated March 2, 2023

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing
Yvonne Chern, 203 Ayer Road, DEP#177-711, Harvard#0322-01
March 2, 2023**

The public hearing was opened at 7:43pm 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, pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Members Present: Don Ritchie, Eve Wittenberg, Paul Willard, Joanne Ward and Mark Shaw

Others Present: Liz Allard (Conservation Agent) and Shawn MacDonald

This hearing was continued from February 2, 2023 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Yvonne Chern for the construction of commercial structures with associated parking, grading and drainage within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 203 Ayer Road, Harvard

At the request of the applicant's representative, Bruce Ringwall, Eve Wittenberg made a motion to continue the hearing to March 16, 2023 at 8:00pm. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Mark Shaw, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Eve Wittenberg, aye; Paul Willard, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Notice of Intent Hearing
Rainer Park, 7 Peninsula Road, Harvard#0223-01
March 2, 2023**

The public hearing was opened at 7:45pm 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, pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Members Present: Don Ritchie, Eve Wittenberg, Paul Willard, Joanne Ward and Mark Shaw

Others Present: Liz Allard (Conservation Agent) and Shawn MacDonald

This hearing was continued from February 16, 2023 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Rainer Park or the replacement of a single-family home, removal of excess pavement, replacement septic system, and removal of barn within the 100' wetland buffer zone and 200' of Bare Hill Pond 7 Peninsula Road, Harvard

At the request of the applicant, Eve Wittenberg made a motion to continue the hearing to March 16, 2023 at 7:45pm. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Mark Shaw, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Eve Wittenberg, aye; Paul Willard, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Conservation Agent