

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2017
APPROVED: FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:01pm in the Town Hall 13 Ayer Road under MGL Chapter 131 §40 The Wetland Protection Act and The Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 the Wetland Protection Bylaw

Members Present: Paul Willard, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss, Jaye Waldron and Don Ritchie

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Dan Wolfe (Ross Assoc.), David Outman (HCT), Peter Dorward (HCT), Tom Cotton, (HCT) and Stu Sklar (BOS)

Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application

Liz Allard stated the State has announced the availability of up to \$300,000 for the acquisition of open space under the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This is a grant program provided by the National Park Service. David Outman, the Director of Harvard Conservation Trust, has been encouraged by the State to apply for this grant for the Horse Meadow Knoll (HMK) project along Sherry Road. Mr. Outman stated this grant does not have the demographic requirements that the Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity grant had, however Outman does not think the timing will work for the HMK project.

Members of the Commission discussed the value of both the HMK property and the new to the market Davis land along Still River Road. Paul Willard would like to see the Davis land purchased as other municipal land, such as park land. Wendy Sisson thinks each property has its own conservation values that are separate from each other. Don Ritchie feels in regards to conservation, HMK is on top; however Davis is far better as view shed and is better located for recreational use.

Questions in regards to the LWCF grant will need to be answered in order for the Commission to determine if it is worth pursuing this grant. This matter will be further discussed at the January 19th meeting.

Discuss Re-establishment of Annual Funding for the Conservation Fund

Stu Sklar, a member of the Board of Selectmen, was present to discuss the re-establishment of the conservation fund within the omnibus budget. Mr. Sklar is in support of re-establishing this fund and encourages the Commission to submit a warrant article for the 2017 annual town meeting. Mr. Sklar feels matters such as this should be brought to the residents for them to decide. After a brief discussion, Wendy Sisson made a motion to request a warrant article in the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of acquiring land for the purpose of open space. Don Ritchie made a friendly amendment to the motion, with a change from \$300,000 to \$200,000. Ms. Sisson accepted the friendly amendment. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – David Treadway, Still River-Depot Road (Map 20 Parcel 15.1), Harvard#1216-01. Opened at 8:01pm

Proposed Harvard Snowmobile Club Protocol

The draft protocol is still under development, but will be distributed for the next meeting of the Commission.

ZBA Request for Comments – 216 Old Littleton Road

Liz Allard stated the application received from the ZBA is for a Special Permit of an accessory apartment within an existing dwelling. There will be no additions to the existing house for this

apartment. Ms. Allard stated the Commission has no comments in regards to this application. Members agreed; notification will be sent to the ZBA in that regards.

2016 Annual Report

Liz Allard informed the members the 2016 annual report is due January 23rd. If members have items they would like included in the report please send them to her by January 13th. The Commission can approve the final report on January 19th.

Forest Cutting Plan – 72 Massachusetts Avenue

Liz Allard had previously distributed the Forest Cutting Plan for 72 Massachusetts Avenue. The areas to be forested do not contain any resource areas. The only concern Ms. Allard has is the site is up-gradient of the Town's reservoir; however the plan calls for selective cutting.

Discuss Board of Selectmen's Policy on the Submission of Warrant Articles

Members reviewed and briefly discussed the new policy of the Board of Selectmen in regards to the submission of warrant articles.

Potential Town Meeting Warrant Article – Erosion Control Bylaw

Jim Breslauer suggested the Commission revisit the erosion control bylaw for the annual town meeting in 2018. Members agreed and also agreed to work with the Planning Board to assist in sponsoring the article in 2018.

Willard Land Conservation Restriction & Trail Easement

Wendy Sisson and Paul Willard will be meeting this coming week with a representative from Still River Realty Trust to work out the details of the trail easement. More information will be available after that meeting.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Liz Allard stated she is about to wrap up the revisions as detailed by the State review of the Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). Once she completes the revisions she will forward the OSRP to the appropriate authorities for their comments.

Update on Gifts of Land

- Stone Cutter's Path – Liz Allard stated Attorney Lanza questioned if there was an alternative to the existing easements to access the parcel. The current easement to the open space is through other properties within the homeowners association. The parcel in question abuts two other parcels of town-owned conservation land. After a brief discussion, Don Ritchie agreed to review the location to determine if there would be any need to access the location from a private parcel in order to maintain the open space.
- Still River Road - Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) has a number of questions in regards to this land and accepting it as a gift. Contact information for the trustee has been provided to Jim Lee, from HCT, who will be in touch with the trustee to further discuss.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion at 8:45pm to adjourn the meeting. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Request for Determination of Applicability
Hearing Meeting Minutes
David Treadway, Still River – Depot Road (Map 20 Parcel 15.1), Harvard#1216-01
January 5, 2017**

The public hearing was opened at 8:01pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 §40 and the Harvard Wetland Protection Bylaw, Chapter 119 of the Code of the Town of Harvard in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 13 Ayer Road, Harvard

Members Present: Paul Willard, Jim Breslauer, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Dan Wolfe (Ross Assoc.)

This hearing is for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed on behalf of David Treadway for the removal of trees and brush in a tree line located in an existing field within the 100' wetland buffer zone on Still River – Depot Road (Map 20 Parcel 15.1), Harvard.

Dan Wolfe, of Ross Associates, was present to represent the applicant. A site walk was conducted last week at which those present recommended a select number of trees remain from those marked for removal. Mr. Wolfe has confirmed that the applicant is amenable to the request. All trees that will remain have been identified on the plan. Liz Allard had requested an erosion control barrier be installed at the toe of the slope of the proposed septic system during its installation. Wendy Sisson suggested allowing only annual mowing in the area of the tree line.

With no further comments or questions, Wendy Sisson made a motion to close the hearing and issue a Negative#3 Determination of Applicability to include the above-mentioned erosion control barrier and annual mowing. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

EXHIBITS & DOCUMENTS

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – David Treadway, Still River-Depot Road (Map 20 Parcel 15.1), Harvard#1216-01

- Site Plan – Tree Removal, David & Katherine Treadway, Lot 2 Still River Depot Road, Harvard, prepared by David E. Ross Associates, Inc., Job No. 31714, Plan No. L-12389, dated 1-5-17