

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2017  
APPROVED: MAY 4, 2017**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm 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, Don Ritchie, Charlie Gorss, Jim Breslauer, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward and Jim Burns (associate member)

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Peter Dorward, Tom Cotton (HCT), Will Hopper and David Hopper

**Eagle Scout Project Ohlin Land – Will Hopper**

Will Hopper, was present to discuss his proposed Eagle Scout project on the Harvard Conservation Trust land, known as the Ohlin Lane. Mr. Hopper explained he plans on constructing a 12' boardwalk to be placed over an area of the trail that experiences spring runoff. Construction details were provided by Mr. Hopper. The installation of the boardwalk will not require any ground disturbance beyond leveling the bridge once in place. Mr. Hopper was advised to be sure the placement of the boardwalk does not cause any erosion or damming of the water flow. Mr. Hopper will be receiving funding from the Lion's Club and plans to complete the project by late May. The Commission thanked Mr. Hopper for his presentation and wished him luck with the project.

Jim Breslauer left the meeting at 7:20pm

**Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Funding**

Liz Allard stated the site walk with Bob O'Conner from the State on Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> went well. Mr. O'Conner was impressed with the site and the fact that it connects to a larger area of other preserved areas. In addition, the ability for the Girl Scout camp across the road to use the land for educational purposes was a plus. Mr. O'Conner stated they would be reviewing applications and make recommendations to the National Parks Service (NPS) within the next few weeks. Typically recommendations made to NPS are funded.

The Capital Planning and Investment Committee (CPIC) met on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>, however there has been no word from them on the next steps in regards to funding for the purchase of the Davis land.

Ms. Allard spoke with the realtor, Suzanne Dutkewych, in regards to the red paint blazes that were not only on trees on the Davis Land, but also on trees on Dean's Hill, which is a Town-owned property. Ms. Dutkewych stated a forester had been on the Davis property earlier in the week. Ms. Allard attempted to set-up an informal meeting with Ms. Dutkewych and a representative of the Davis family in order to discuss the purchase of the land. Ms. Dutkewych stated she would further discuss with the Davis's and get back to Ms. Allard. Peter Dorward suggested if the seller's are again not willing to meet, the perhaps a letter should be sent to Davis's explaining the purchase price as stated at the March 6<sup>th</sup> presentation. Members agreed to further discuss this suggestion at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Comments to Town Charter**

After a brief discussion of some of the concerns the Commission has with the draft Charter for the Town of Harvard, the members agreed to draft a letter to be reviewed and approved at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Re-appointments of Land Stewardship Subcommittee Members**

Wendy Sisson informed Liz Allard that both Pam Durrant and Robert Benson would like to be re-appointed to the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. Both appointments would be until March 31, 2020. Joanne Ward made a motion to re-appoint Pam Durrant & Robert Benson to the Land Stewardship Subcommittee, each for a three-year term to expire March 31, 2020. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Approve Minutes**

Don Ritchie made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, March 16, April 3 and April 6 as amended. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Update**

The grant application for Conservation Assistance for Small Communities requires the signature of the Conservation Commission. The Planning Board is applying for funding for a financial analysis of the impacts of an open space design development in Harvard. Joanne Ward made a motion to support the Planning Board's effort in applying for the Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant by the Commission signing, as required, the application. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Jim Breslauer returned to the meeting at 7:57pm

**Comments to the Draft Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Priority Habitat Map**

Liz Allard has not had an opportunity to review the draft map for any changes from the previous map. This item will be addressed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Licensing of Conservation Land Update**

Joanne Ward had questions on some of the properties including Abbot, Dunlap, and Sturdy land. Liz Allard will follow up with Marie Sobalvarro on the procurement process for licensing these lands.

**Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation**

This item was passed over

**Adjournment**

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent

## **EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS**

### **Conservation Commission Agenda, dated April 20, 2017**

#### **Eagle Scout Project Ohlin Land – Will Hopper**

- Trail Map of the Ohlin Land, from the Trail Guide, dated
- Photos of the area detailing location of proposed boardwalk, undated
- Profile of proposed boardwalk, undated
- Construction details, undated

#### **Comments to Town Charter**

- Draft Proposed Town of Harvard Charter, dated March 31, 2017

#### **Approve Minutes**

- Draft minutes of March 2, March 16, April 3 and April 6, 2017, prepared by Liz Allard

#### **Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Update**

- Letter from Board of Selectmen to Emmanuel Owusa at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, dated April xx, 2017
- Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program, Application Form, FY17/18