

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2017
APPROVED: JANUARY 11, 2018**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road, under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw

Members Present: Paul Willard, Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Jim Burns and Mark Shaw (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Tom Cotton (HCT), Jason Cole and Tom Philippou (BOH)

Deer Management

Wendy Sisson detailed the presentation from David Stainbrook, Deer & Moose Biologist for the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, entitled "Deer Browse Surveys & Suburban Deer Management in Eastern Massachusetts". With high survival rates, low morality and quality habitat, Harvard needs to develop a management plan before the density gets too high. This plan should include methods for evaluating forest impact by deer and how to conduct forest impacts surveys. The Conservation Commission needs to determine what areas of open space would be suitable for hunting. In addition, the plan should include the allowed methods for hunting and how to monitor hunters on town-owned land.

Ms. Sisson discussed the creation of a committee to continue researching the experience of other towns and develop a plan. This committee should include a representative from the Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT), the Board of Health and a citizen-at-large. Don Ritchie may be interested in co-chairing this committee along with HCT.

Tom Cotton, a member of HCT, stated HCT has not yet discussed the use of their lands for hunting. Ms. Sisson stated newer parcels of conservation land may be good candidates for trying out hunting methods, such as the Willard or Barrett Land.

Ms. Sisson agreed to draft a mission statement, membership and timeline for the committee to be approved by the Commission in the coming weeks.

Nashua River Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft River Management Plan

Jaye Waldron has been reviewing the study and management plan and wondered if a stormwater bylaw combined with erosion control bylaw might assist in furthering this initiative. The plan further recommends Harvard adopt an aquifer and/or groundwater protection overlay districts. Members were encouraged to review the information specific to Harvard, starting on page 115 of the document. Ms. Waldron will continue to review the document for comments.

Potential Open Space – Woodside Road, Map 30 Parcel 14

No news from Town Administrator

Licensing of Conservation Land Update

No update at this time.

Update from the State Service Forester – Cruft Lane

Liz Allard received an email from the State Forest Service, Lara Dooley, who has requested the plan prepare to GPS the boundaries of the two fields.

Chapter 147 Wetland Protection Bylaw Regulations

Jaye Waldron had the follow feedback on the regulations:

- Is the Commission restricted to only allowing a waiver if it is in the public good under §147-3
- Under Article IV confirm the number of growing seasons for replication is suitable
- Language in regards to the 1% chance of flooding should be reviewed and updated as appropriate
- Detail the plan requirements under DEP Stormwater standards

Fiscal Year 2019 Land Use Budget

Fiscal Year 2019 budgets and associated narrative were submitted this afternoon. The Commission is not in agreement with the goals expressed within the narrative. After a discussion, Paul Willard and Don Ritchie agreed to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen expressing the Commission's dissatisfaction with the goals listed within the narrative. The Commission does not agree with the creation of a Director of Planning position or that it will be a full-time position.

Approve Minutes

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2017 as amended. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Comments

- ZBA Application – 50 Turner Lane; a letter was drafted which request the conditions within the Determination of Applicability be included within the decision made by the ZBA
- PB Application – 133 Brown Road; a letter was drafted stating the Commission has no comments to this application.

Request for a Certificates of Compliance

- 110 Warren Ave, DEP#177-537
- 40 Lovers Lane, DEP#177-633

Don Ritchie made a motion to issue the Certificates of Compliance for the above mentioned locations. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Capital Planning & Investments Committee FY2019 Application Questions

- Reviewed Board of Selectmen's requested Information
- Meeting with CPIC November 6th @ 8:30am
- OSRP Action Plan Objective 1b – Publicize the benefits of protecting open space and proposed funding sources
 - Commission agreed to hold off on this objective until they know the requested is going to be included with the warrant for annual town meeting

Adjournment

Don Ritchie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41pm. Jaye Waldron 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 November 2, 2017

Deer Management

- David Stainbrook, Deer & Moose Biologist for the Department of Fish & Wildlife, presentation - "Deer Browse Surveys & Suburban Deer Management in Eastern Massachusetts", undated

Nashua River Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft River Management Plan

- Nashua, Squannacook & Nissitissit Rivers Wild & Scenic River Study Committee
ROUGH DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN, dated October 10, 2017

Approve Minutes

- Harvard Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, prepared by Liz Allard, dated August 17, 2017