

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 5, 2016
APPROVED: JUNE 16, 2016**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Hapgood Room at 7 Fairbank Street 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, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer and Joanne Ward

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Peter Dorward (HCT), Jim Lee (HCT)

Review Order of Conditions with New Owner – Homescout, Lot 5 Bolton Road, DEP#177-639

The new owner of Lot 5 Bolton Road, Justin Smith, was present to review the Order of Conditions with the Commission prior to the start of work on the property. Liz Allard provided Mr. Smith with a copy of the Order of Condition. Mr. Smith will begin work on the property within the next two weeks. Members thanked Mr. Smith for attending the meeting as required by the Order of Conditions.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

- **Appoint Sub-committee**
After a brief discussion the individuals listed below were appointed to the Open Space & Recreation Update Committee (OSRPUC) on a motion made by Wendy Sisson. The motion was seconded by Don Ritchie. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Liz Allard, Town Conservation Agent

Bill Scanlan, Town Planner

Concom: Jim Breslauer, Joanne Ward

Bare Hill Pond Committee: Megan Glew, Brian McClain, Steve Gordon

Park & Rec: Frank Calmone, Doug Thornton

Planning Board: Erin McBee

HCT: Jim Lee, Peter Dorward

Garden Club: Jessie Panek

Board of Selectmen: Lucy Wallace

- **Review & Approve Survey Question**
Members of the Commission and members of the OSRPUC reviewed the draft survey. This survey will go live on May 6th and will be open until May 26th. After a long deliberation of the survey questions, Don Ritchie made a motion to accept the survey as revised this evening. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Invoice

Liz Allard stated the following invoice have been received for inclusion on the next bill warrant:

- Mark Lanza - \$82.50

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the above mentioned invoice for inclusion on the next bill warrant. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Bylaw Amendment – Land Subject to Flooding

Jim Breslauer stated he would like to research and prepare for the Commission a provision to the Wetland Protection Bylaw similar to one the Town of Winchester has, which has language about land not usually under water. Members were in agreement with his request.

Update on Potential Wetland Violations at 77 Mass Avenue

Don Ritchie reviewed the above mentioned site with Liz Allard. Mr. Ritchie stated the work on the site is getting close to requiring permits from the Commission. A brush pile on the abutting Small land was noted during the visit as well. After a brief discussion, Don Ritchie made a motion to send the property owners of 77 Mass Ave a letter detailing the need to file with the Commission should any additional activity take place on the site that creates ground disturbance. In addition, the letter should explain that although brush piles make nice habitat, permission to do so on abutting Town land should be sought before doing so. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update

Wendy Sisson had the following updates from Land Stewardship:

- 21 people attended the trail walk of the Great Elms on May 15th;
- The Clapp land needs improvements to the trail that will require the addition of drainage.
- On September 8th in Volunteer's Hall at 7:30pm there will be a talk in regards to the ongoing research of the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly, which will be co-sponsored by the Harvard Cultural Collaborative;
- Work to control invasive plant species on the Herman orchard is progressing;
- Phil Knoettner and Ms. Sisson are working to replace the bridge on William's Land;
- Demolition of the structures at 100 Shaker Road will require permission from the Historic Commission; Ms. Sisson is working on the application for HHC.

Jim Lee was present and discussed the need for the trail behind McCurdy track to have additional culverts installed as the area is still washing out. Work to do so will take place the first week in June. Mr. Lee was asked to inform Liz Allard when work begins.

ZBA Request for Comments – Baer, 111 Clinton Shore Drive

Liz Allard stated the ZBA has received an application for the reconstruction and expansion of the dwelling at 111 Clinton Shore Drive, which will require the filing of a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Conservation Commission (Concom). Ms. Allard is recommending the Concom hold a joint meeting with the ZBA on both applications on June 8, 2016. Members agreed as long as the applicant is able to provide the Commission with a NOI for the June 16th meeting.

Update on Beaver Deceivers

Liz Allard stated Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions will be in Town on May 19th to install the beaver deceiver at the Williams Pond.

Update to the Gifts of Land

Liz Allard stated there was nothing new to report at this date.

Park & Recreation Commission Article

Liz Allard stated this week's Harvard Press included an article in regards to the updating of the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The article was from a recent Park & Recreation (P&R) Commission meeting, at which comments was made in regards to the lack of communication between P&R and the Conservation Commission. Commission members agreed that continuing to extend an olive branch to P&R and continuing communications with them is important, especially in light of the fact that the OSRP is being updated.

Board of Selectmen & Capital Planning & Investment Committee Newspaper Article

Jim Breslauer noted an article in this week Harvard Press in regards to a discussion at a recent Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting at which the Chairman, Ron Ricci, recommended a letter of apology be sent to the Capital Planning & Investment Committee in regards to the actions of certain members of the BOS during annual town meeting (ATM) earlier this month. Mr. Breslauer felt the Commission was also deserving of an apology from the BOS in regards to the BOS removing the Commission's request for funding to purchase a parcel of land from the warrant for ATM without any input from the Commission and for the comments made by Mr. Ricci during

ATM in regards to the Commission's proposed erosion control bylaw. With members of the Commission in agreement, Don Ritchie made a motion to allow Jim Breslauer to draft a letter to the BOS as detailed above. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Tick Article

Wendy Sisson noted this week's issue of the Harvard Press includes an article on prevention of tick bites; however it is very one-sided and only details the use of chemicals for the control of ticks and mosquitoes. Ms. Sisson will speak with local reporters to see if a follow-up article will include other useful information on the subject. Ms. Sisson also pointed out that the Commission's webpage has some helpful information in the subject, as does the Board of Health's webpage.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion at 9:11pm 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

DOCUMENTS & OTHER EXHIBITS

Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

- Town of Harvard, Massachusetts 2016 Open Space & Recreation Plan, Survey Responses, May 27, 2016