

**TOWN OF HARVARD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA
THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2022 @7:00PM**

Pursuant to Chapter 22 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 February 15, 2022, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone number below.

Hildreth Pro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87408808359?pwd=a290bidldGRHQ1RrUVVid0p1RlBzdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 0880 8359

Passcode: 828208

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87408808359# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,87408808359# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 874 0880 8359

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87408808359?pwd=a290bidldGRHQ1RrUVVid0p1RlBzdz09>

New Business:

1. Wetland Violation – 41 Pinnacle Road
2. Harvard Climate Initiative Committee Earth Day Show & Tell Around Town Participation
3. Request to Move Annual Appointments of the Land Stewardship & Deer Management Subcommittee
4. Discuss Hybrid Meeting Option
5. Request for Staff Comments on Proposed Chapter 40B Development at the Corner of Ayer & Old Mill Road
6. Land Stewardship Subcommittee Request for Allocation of Funds for Bridge Repair on the Small Land
7. Zoning Board of Appeals Request for Comments
 - 198 Prospect Hill Road
 - 247 Littleton County Road
8. Planning Board Request for Comments
 - 203 Ayer Road
 - 265 Ayer Road
 - 295 Ayer Road
9. Approve Minutes

Public Hearings:

- 7:25pm **Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions Hearing – Luciano Manganella, 175 Littleton County Road, DEP#177-694**, to revise the utility connections to a single-family dwelling with temporary impacts to the wetland resource area and the 100' wetland buffer zone
- 7:30pm **Notice of Intent Hearing – Yvonne Chern, 203 Ayer Road, Harvard#0322-01**, for the construction of commercial structures with associated parking, grading and drainage within the 100' wetland buffer zone
- 7:45pm **Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – Maureen H. Pettirossi Trust, Harvard#0322-02**, for improvements to the existing driveway to create sheet flow for stormwater within the 100' wetland buffer zone

Old Business:

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

1. Harvard Climate Initiative Committee Climate Action Plan Feedback
2. Pine Hill Village Update

**NEXT MEETING:
APRIL 21, 2022**

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Earth Day Show and Tell Around Town

Ellen Sachs Leicher <esachsleicher01451@gmail.com>

Mon 03/28/22 10:20 AM

To: Stacia Donahue <donahuestacia360@gmail.com>; libby-boh@email.toast.net <libby-boh@email.toast.net>; jclarke@psharvard.org <jclarke@psharvard.org>; Ben Baron <brbaron@gmail.com>; Abbe Alpert <abbealpert@charter.net>; Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Hi everyone,

Earth Day Show and Tell Around Town is on Saturday, April 30 with a rain date of Sunday, May 1 sponsored by the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee and the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee. We have 12 host homes (several of these in town center area) that will be showing their electrified heating systems, solar panels, native gardens, electric lawn equipment, etc. and a EV Petting Zoo at HES. Fivesparks has some Japan month activities happening and will have some native bonsai plants to showcase and the garlic mustard pull folks will be handing out bags for clean up. The Harvard General Store will be demonstrating an induction stove top and has offered us the picnic area to set up displays, which is where you all come in.

We have reached out to most of you about setting up a display at the General. Here is what I have:

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management - Ben Baron
Planning Board - outdoor light pollution - Staci Donahue
Recycling Tips/Info - Libby Levison
Harvard Conservation Trust - Abbe Alpert
Conservation Commission — Unknown (Liz, reaching out to you)
Bromfield Green Team - Josh Clarke

Questions for everyone:

Are you able to come and set up at the General? The event is from 11 - 4 but you can decide what time you want to be there

How can we help you? We are here to help where we can.

Should I be reaching out to any other group?

Please let me know if you can come and the answers to the questions above if possible by April 1st. We are beginning to advertise the event in early April and throughout the month.

Thank you.

Ellen

Ellen Sachs Leicher
esachsleicher01451@gmail.com
508-572-4002 (cell)
978-456-8151 (home)

Upper Town Hall Meeting Rooms

Allowed Meetings

The two meeting rooms upstairs in Town Hall will be opening for committee and/or subcommittee meetings soon. The first meeting room to open will be the large meeting room, starting Monday, April 4, 2022, in which only hybrid meetings may be conducted.

In order to hold a hybrid meeting you need to do the following:

- Contact HCTV in advance to be trained in how to hold set up, administer, and record a hybrid meeting.
- Contact the Select Board's office 24 hours (or longer) in advance of the meeting so that the front door locking system can be adjusted. Last minute requests will not be able to be accommodated and may cause you to cancel your meeting.
- **All hybrid meetings must be posted as such and must also allow for the public to attend in person or electronically.** This means the term "Hybrid" must be in the heading of the posting.
- Each committee will be responsible for putting out microphones and returning them to their charging stations, making sure the lights are off, and everything is the way it was prior to the meeting.
- Finally, while mask may be optional at this time, I would strongly suggest the use of masks as the public will be allowed in the building.

The Volunteer Meeting Room as well as the Hildreth House meeting rooms will remain off-limits to in-person meetings until later this Spring.

We strongly encourage continuing the use of Zoom meetings while permitted by law; taxpayers have been uniformly positive regarding access to meetings/recordings, and we appreciate the opportunity to reduce road-miles travelled.

DRAFT
HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 17, 2022

Chair Don Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, virtually, pursuant to Chapter 22 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 February 15, 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, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward, Mark Shaw and eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Boards Administrator/Conservation Agent), Margaret Kusner (Harvard Press), Vineet, Ashwini Kumar, Alex Senykoff and Gail McCarthy

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update

- **Allocation of funding for boardwalk repairs @ Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary \$1000.00**
Jaye Waldron made a motion to approve the allocation up to \$1000.00 for the repair of the boardwalk on Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.
- **Spring Walk** – To be held at the Black Pond Conservation Area on Sunday April 10th starting at 1:30pm
- **Grant received from Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council** – The Commission has received a grant in the amount of \$2500.00 for the placement of signage at road crossings along Bowers Brook. A map of the Town’s waterways, wetlands and watersheds will be prepared and posted (physically and online) to enhance public knowledge of these features.
- **Completing Holy Hill** – Jaye Waldron confirmed Tom MacMullin was still willing to assist with the work necessary to repair a trail on the Holy Hill Land.

Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions – Luciano Manganello, 175 Littleton County Road, DEP#177-694. Opened at 7:32pm

Approve Minutes

Joanne Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2022 as amended. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Use of the Reuben Reed Land Form

Joanne Ward made a motion to accept the Reuben Reed Land Form as edited this evening. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Request to Accept Revision to Approved Plan as a *De Minimus* Change – 39 Jacob Gates Road, Harvard#0921-02

After discussing the underground storage of propane, other potential locations for the proposed propane tank, and the distance from the existing wetlands, Paul Willard made a motion to approve the addition of a generator and its associated propane tank to the existing Determination of Applicability as a *De Minimus* change. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

53 **Pine Hill Village Update**
54 There was no update this evening.

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56 **Adjournment**
57 Jaye Waldron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The
58 vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne
59 Ward, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

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61 Respectfully submitted,

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64 Liz Allard,
65 Land Use Administrator/
66 Conservation Agent

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68 **EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS**

- 69
70 • Conservation Commission Agenda, dated March 17, 2022
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DRAFT

106 **Harvard Conservation Commission**
107 **Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions Hearing**
108 **Luciano Manganella, 175 Littleton County Road, DEP#177-694, Harvard#0820-04**
109 **March 17, 2022**
110

111 The public hearing was opened at 7:32pm by Chair Don Ritchie under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland
112 Protection Act and the Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw virtually,
113 pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures
114 Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on February 15, 2022.
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116 **Members Present** (and able to vote on this application): Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson and Joanne Ward
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118 **Others Present:** Liz Allard (Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent), Paul Willard, Jaye Waldron and
119 Mark Shaw
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121 This hearing was continued from March 3, 2022 for a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions filed on
122 behalf of Luciano Manganella to revise the utility connections to a single-family dwelling with temporary
123 impacts to the wetland resource area and the 100' wetland buffer zone at 175 Littleton County Road,
124 Harvard.
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126 With no word from the applicant's representative regarding input from the Natural Heritage and
127 Endanger Species Program, Wendy Sisson made a motion to continue the hearing to April 7, 2022 at
128 7:25pm. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll
129 call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Joanne Ward, aye and Don Ritchie, aye.
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131 Respectfully submitted,
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134 Liz Allard,
135 Land Use Administrator/
136 Conservation Agent

CAP Focus Area: Natural Resources
ConCom response 4/7/22

Municipal Goal: Increase the resilience of Harvard's ecosystems and community through the coordinated implementation of nature-based solutions.

Follow up and implement recommendations of the 2021 Apple Country Report:

This report notes that the preponderance of land in Harvard in its natural state of forests fields, and especially wetlands is the town's greatest asset in terms of sequestering and storing carbon. By far the greatest impact we can have in nature-based solutions to climate change and increasing resilience is to retain as much of this ecologically functioning land as possible and to minimize conversion to pavement, buildings, septic systems or traditionally landscaped areas. Harvard's Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Open Space Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission and Selectboard each have jurisdiction and a role in the oversight of land use in town with this most significant climate impact in mind. In addition to supporting efforts of other town boards, the Conservation Commission has an important role to play. The Commission's core mission, to administrate the Wetlands Protection Act and conserve natural landscapes, is entirely in line with this primary goal in response to climate change. It can increase its impact by doing this job more effectively while focusing on climate impacts and adaptations to current environmental changes.

1. Wetlands are of particular importance as carbon sinks, for species diversity, flood control, water quality, etc. To strengthen their protection the Conservation Commission could:
 - Update the Harvard Wetlands Protection Bylaw utilizing the work in other area towns, including the consulting taking place in Bolton/Clinton as a result of the Apple Country Natural Climate Solutions Project
 - Consider present and fluctuating conditions not reflected in typical data sources, such as Extreme Precipitation Analysis, by utilizing the most up-to-date data available for precipitation, location of floodplains and wetlands, a stream stats.
 - Proactively document changing conditions for input to regional and Statewide mapping of floodplains, wetlands and biodiversity
 - Increase protection within jurisdictional wetland buffer zones
 - Educate and advise residents on the management of private land near/in wetlands (The Apple Country report prepared a self-guided educational tour that could be promoted or offered as a guided walk.)
 - Work with Department of Public Works to protect wetlands by managing road runoff, designing and maintaining BMPs, assessing culverts and improving as needed, reducing impacts on wetlands surrounding the transfer station, etc.

2. Improve land management to increase resilience and biodiversity

- **Invasive plant and insect management:**
 - **Continue existing programs for Bare Hill Pond and on town conservation land**
 - **Expand to other municipally-controlled land, especially roadsides where invasives are spread and introduced to adjacent land and waterways**
 - **Educate and provide resources to residents to manage invasives on private land**
- **Improve soil health**
 - **Educate, minimize disturbance and implement best management practices to improve soils on agricultural land, town-owned turf, and residential properties.**
- **Increase and improve habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects with protection and cultivation of native plants.**
- **Implement tree and other vegetation enhancements to built environments for shade, improved buffer, bio-swales, etc.**
- **Prepare management plans for town-owned conservation lands**