

Holliston Conservation Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes
Town Hall – Meeting Room #014

December 21, 2010
7:30 PM

Present: Geoffrey Zeamer, Chair; Ann Marie Pilch, Vice Chair;
Chris Bajdek, Fred Carnes, Richard Maccagnano, Peter Rosati,
Allen Rutberg, Commissioners

Charles Katuska, Conservation Agent
Sheri O'Brien, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Zeamer opened the meeting at 7:38 PM.

General Business

Review/Discuss Mail

The mail was reviewed.

Agent's Report

The Agent's Report was read (attached). The following was discussed.

Discuss Beaver Dams in the Hopping Brook Park/Rt. 16 Area

One of the two 4' culverts under Hopping Brook Road has been opened up and the wetlands adjacent to Rt 16 have drained significantly and there is no longer a crisis situation. The three 5' culverts behind Griffin Electric are now visible and they are NOT blocked with debris. Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions is coming to assess the situation with Mr. Rutberg and Mr. Katuska tomorrow, December 22nd.

A letter from Representative Dykema to the US Army Corps of Engineers and Mass DOT (dated 12/16/10) urged that there be continued planning and cooperation on flooding at Washington Street (with letter from Mr. Joe Bannish attached).

Discuss Lifting of Enforcement Order - Cutler Heights - Jon Juhl & Associates

The site is near being completely stabilized. Site paving is almost complete, Cape Cod berms and sidewalks are installed. The site has been consistently improved with stabilization measures. The Agent recommended that the Enforcement Order be lifted. The detention basin and catch basins are working well. There was one area of "break out" past the silt fence that was corrected today. The Commission wondered how it occurred and Baystate and Jon Juhl & Associates did not know how it had happened. Baystate suggested that they add haybales behind the silt fence

and that the Agent come out and inspect their improvements next month before lifting the Enforcement Order. Mr. Zeamer believes there needs to be greater due diligence as far as the stabilization is concerned. The Commission decided not to lift the Enforcement Order at this time.

Highland Meadows

The Commission would like to see an engineering certification that the drainage structure in the detention basin is indeed certified for drainage. It appears to be “Styrofoam” coated with concrete.

Regular Inspections

Mr. Zeamer requested that the Agent and Assistant work on creating a list of sites that need to be inspected on a regular basis. The staff will work on reviewing the Order of Conditions for sites that need to be inspected.

Invoice from Attorney Antonellis

The Commission would like to get an estimate from Attorney Antonellis for approximately how much he believes legal expenses will be for the rest of FY11. The Commission will need to request a Reserve Fund Transfer after the numbers are known.

Hearings

****NEW RFD #452: Railroad Bed/Bike Trail between Hopping Brook Road and South Street, identified as Assessors Map 1, Block 1, Lot 50.1,** proposed regrading of former railbed, *Matt Varrell* representing *Holliston Trails Committee/Town of Holliston*

The Agent read the legal notice as it was published in the *MetroWest Daily News* on December 14, 2010. Commissioner Rutberg recused himself because he is an abutter. Matt Varrell, Robert Weidknecht, and Herb Brockert from the Holliston Trails Committee were present. Mr. Varrell presented a plan for the bike path regrading project between Hopping Brook Road and South Street. The trail/old railroad bed has mounds in it created by ATVs and dirt bikes. The Trails Committee would like to flatten the mounds out by grading and then compacting the trail. Straw wattles are proposed to be used in the area where the grading will occur and then they will be moved to the next section that will be graded. Mr. Brockert is an excavator and has volunteered to grade the trail with his equipment.

The Trails Committee has applied for a DCR grant for \$50,000 per year so that they can eventually topcoat it with sand/gravel or recycled asphalt. The Committee has the opportunity to have recycled asphalt donated so that they can “topcoat” the existing trail bed.

The top of the railroad bed “berm” is approximately 15 to 20’ wide at the top and the trail will be about 10’ wide where they will be grading. The Commission requested that the finished surface (e.g., recycled asphalt) be better defined and that plans with cross sections of the bike path be created.

The Commission requested that Mr. Brockert and the Trails Committee come back with a more complete definition of what “when the grading is complete” means.

The portion of the railbed between the bridge and Hopping Brook Road is still owned by CSX. The Trails Committee is working on signing a lease with CSX and if that does not occur before they grade, the Trails Committee will get a letter of permission to do the grading work from CSX.

Mr. Rosati made a motion to continue the hearing to January 4, 2011. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Mr. Rutberg abstained. The motion passed.

General Business Continued

Discuss Departmental Requests for Comments:

Zoning - 2 Skyview Terrace - Dan Brooks

Building - 7 Springdale Circle - Marc Rosenfeld

Building - 8 Springdale Circle - James Moore/Birch Tree Realty

Building - 367 Hanlon Road - Anthony & Paula Mazzeo

Building - 43 Dunster Road - Gerry Sneirson

None of these sites are under the Conservation Commission’s jurisdiction.

Discuss Abutter’s List for Request for Determinations as Required in Holliston Wetland Administration Bylaw (Article XXX)

The Agent recommended that this be discussed at a later date along with other potential changes to the Bylaw.

Vote on Approval of Draft Minutes from ConCom Meetings on 10/5/10

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the 10/5/10 minutes. Mr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Mr. Rosati abstained. The motion passed.

Vote on Approval of Draft Minutes from ConCom Meetings on 10/19/10

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the 10/19/10 minutes. Mr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Discuss Potential Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Zeamer and Mr. Katuska will work together to brainstorm a list of potential Eagle Scout projects. Mr. Zeamer suggested a kiosk at the Adams Street Parking Lot as a possibility for one of the Eagle Scout projects.

Mr. Rutberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Maccagano seconded the motion. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 4, 2011.