

## **Holliston Conservation Commission**

**APPROVED Meeting Minutes**  
Town Hall – Meeting Room #014

March 27, 2013  
7:30 PM

Present: Allen Rutberg, Chair; Chris Bajdek, Richard Maccagnano, Rebecca Weissman, Commissioners

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

Absent: Ann Marie Pilch, Vice-Chair; Shaw Lively, Jim McGrath, Commissioners

**Allen Rutberg opened the meeting at 7:36 PM.**

### **General Business**

#### **Highlands at Holliston Conservation Restrictions – Don Seaberg, Benchmark Engineering**

Phase I – There are 3 parcels of land included in this Phase I CR. The CR is being reviewed by the staff and needs to be looked at with Mr. Seaberg before it can be considered by the Commission. Some of the Plan references are incorrect or missing.

#### **Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance for DEP File #185-682: 6 Brandon Lane (Lot 2 - off of Wilson Street) – Peter Lavoie/Guerriere & Halnon representing Alfonso Real Estate**

The lot is mostly rough fill and needs to be stabilized with loam, seed, and 3-4" of hay before a Certificate of Compliance can be issued. The erosion controls need to be repaired where they have broken and the eroded sediment cleaned up. An e-mail has been sent to Dominic Alfonso about what needs to be done to obtain a Certificate of Compliance.

#### **Vote on ConCom Section of FY12 Annual Report for Town Meeting**

Commissioners' comments were incorporated into the FY12 Annual Report at the end of the first paragraph and a fourth paragraph was added.

**Mr. Maccagnano made motion to accept the FY12 Annual Report with the additional comments. Mr. Bajdek seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)**

#### **Vote on ConCom Meeting Minutes from 3/12/13**

**The minutes were reviewed and there were no comments. Mr. Maccagnano made a motion to approve the March 12, 2013 meeting minutes. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)**

## **Lake Winthrop Reports**

The mercury and dioxin results from the sediment sampling done by the ESS Group, Inc. for Lake Winthrop were discussed. The most recent dioxin levels (sampled on December 4, 2012) are higher than those previously reported in 1983 and are above the levels recommended by the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and the Massachusetts Beneficial Use Determination (BUD). The consultant believes that these higher levels occurred because of differences in sampling methods.

Testing was repeated at approximately the same 3 locations that were tested previously. One of the testing locations is relatively close to the Stoddard Park beach. No testing was done near the Pleasure Point beach.

Dioxin is not water-soluble. The only realistic exposure pathways for people using the lake are fish consumption and oral consumption of contaminated sediment. The lake is posted with signs warning against fish consumption and consumption of sediments is unlikely. Fish tissue has not yet been tested and the MA Department of Public Health is being contacted to find out if the state has funds to do this fish tissue sampling.

Mercury levels in the sediment were below the levels recommended by the MCP and the Massachusetts BUD.

Holliston residents, Martin Sawzin, John Thomas, Charles Kingsbury, and Karl and Sue Schlotterbeck were present to discuss their concerns regarding the dioxin contamination.

Martin Sawzin (41 School Street) inquired about the different type of dioxins. There are many dioxin chemical compounds, however, the standard dioxin that is used as a benchmark in testing is 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD) and this is the dioxin that is discussed here because it is the most potent. Mr. Sawzin was glad to know that there were signs warning against fish consumption, since this is the easiest way to be exposed to both dioxin and mercury.

Charles Kingsbury (214 Winthrop Street) requested a copy of the entire Sediment Sampling Report, because he would like to review the results of all of the different types of dioxins. The report will be provided to those who requested a copy.

John Thomas (7 Norfolk Lane) explained that he was on the Commission when the original dioxin testing was done. Mr. Thomas agreed that the science shows that swimming is not dangerous, because the dioxin is insoluble in water. If it was soluble in water, the dioxin would have washed away long ago. Interestingly, Mr. Thomas explained that since dioxin is hydrophilic and settles in fatty tissue, there is typically dioxin contamination in all fatty foods, including butter, eggs, beef, pork and supermarket fish.

The MA Department of Public Health has been aware of mercury and dioxin contamination in Lake Winthrop for 30 years and had previously recommended posting signs against fish consumption. The signs are posted at the beaches and the boat ramps on Lake Winthrop.

## **Public Meetings & Hearings**

**Continued Public Hearing - Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-741: Indian Trail Estates Subdivision, identified as portions of Holliston Assessors Map 14, Block, Lots 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6,** proposed construction of a stormwater detention basin and the grading for the roadway in a 5 lot subdivision, *Robert Poxon/Guerriere and Halnon, Inc.* representing *126 Residential ANR Realty*

Don Seaberg, Benchmark Engineering, representing 126 Residential ANR Realty, made a written request to continue the hearing to April 9, 2013.

**Mr. Bajdek made a motion to continue the hearing for DEP File # 185-741: Indian Trail Estates Subdivision to April 9, 2013. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)**

## **General Business Continued**

### **Review Mail**

The mail was reviewed.

### **Route 16 Flooding**

The owner (New Hopping Brook Realty Trust) of the 3 culverts under the unpaved portion of Hopping Brook Road has agreed to clean out the culverts of beaver debris. The Medway Agent has been contacted about the flowage of water downstream when the culverts are cleaned out.

### **NStar Mobile Substation – Fiske and Marilyn Streets – DEP File #185-747**

A pre-construction meeting was held today at the site.

### **Tree Removal at Dams**

The Highway Department removed trees at the Lake Winthrop dam today. Additional material was also added to the dam to make it wider. Per the Dam Safety Officer, Karen Fung, extra material can be added to “widen” the dam, so that a truck can be driven safely on it; however, the level of the dam cannot be raised. The top of the dam must be smoothed out and seeded.

### **Winthrop Canal**

The BoH has sent a letter to Mass Mosquito Control asking for assistance with the stagnant water in the Winthrop Canal. Also, some citizens that live near the canal have requested that an article be put on the Town Warrant to study the Winthrop Canal flooding and beaver dam issue.

**At 8:40 PM, Mr. Maccagnano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bajdek seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)**

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be April 9, 2013.