

Holliston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Town Hall- Meeting Room #014

October 17, 2017

7:30 PM

Present: Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair, Jennifer Buttarro, Blake M. Mensing, Allen Rutberg, Commissioners; Utah Nickel, Associate Commissioner
Kristin O'Brien, Acting Conservation Agent

Absent: Chris Bajdek, Chair; Shaw Lively, Ann Marie Pilch, Commissioners

Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

General Business

Eagle Scout Proposal for a Boardwalk Replacement at Wenakeening Woods- Andrew Dykema

- Master Dykema of Troop 73 explained there are two boardwalks in Wenakeening Woods that are in disrepair and he is proposing to replace both with new boards that will be raised off the ground by stones.
- The boardwalks will be 36" x 3" and will use 12" pressure-treated stringers.
- All boards will be cut before they are brought into the woods by hand (possibly with a cart).
- He plans to do the work in spring and it will take 1-2 weekends to complete.
- There will be 4" x 4" supports in addition to the rocks.
- The old boards will most likely be deposited at Covanta.

Dr. Rutberg made a motion to accept Master Dykema's project as proposed. Ms. Buttarro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

Discussion: Tree Removal at 66 Westfield Drive

- Ms. O'Brien explained the new owner was given permission in a previous Determination to remove leaf litter piles from the edge of lawn/wetlands. In this process he cut several dead trees that were uprooted.
- The dead trees are lying in the wooded wetlands and he cut a section of tree to allow for a walking path.
- The owner has requested to remove the dead trees as he finds them unsightly.
- Ms. O'Brien suggested he plant natives at the edge of the lawn to screen some of the debris.
- The Commission recommended to spread the woody debris around to minimize the visual impact but not to remove it from the property.

Discussion: Highlands at Holliston Conservation Restriction

- Ms. O'Brien stated that Paul Beattie, Fafard's Attorney, requested more time to review the proposed scope of work Oxbow Associates submitted and suggested meeting next week to discuss further.
- Ms. Weissman and Ms. O'Brien will propose to meet Fafard's contacts at Highlands at Holliston on October 24, 2017 at 10:00 am.
- The plan was reviewed.
- Ms. O'Brien recommended adding a fourth shrub species to the R3 restoration area, as mountain laurel has varied success.
- The swale from Hiawatha to Mohawk Path needs to be redesigned to address erosion issues.
- The abutter encroachments are still being investigated.
- The Commission discussed the tight timing of fall planting.

- The Environmental Scientist must oversee herbicide application and planting success assessments.

Vote on 9/19/17 and 10/3/17 Draft Meeting Minutes

- There was not a quorum to vote on the minutes and they will be postponed to the October 31, 2017 meeting.

Ashland Trail Connection

- Dr. Rutberg will work with Robert Weidknecht and others to discuss trail extension and connection to Ashland.

Review Correspondence

- The Commission signed invoices for Town Counsel and Oxbow Associates.
- The Commissioners requested to have their MassWildlife subscriptions renewed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Continued Public Hearing – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation DEP File # 185-830: 185 Cedar Street (Assessors Map 14-3-1) proposed wetland delineation . *Joyce Hastings, GLM, Inc* representing *David Adams, Indian Ridge Realty Trust*

- Ms. Hastings said the revised wetland delineation plan is expected for next week and asked to continue the hearing to the next meeting.

Mr. Mensing made a motion to continue the hearing 185 Cedar Street until the October 31, 2017 meeting. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

Continued Public Hearing –Notice of Intent DEP File # 185-831: 11 Minuteman Circle (Assessors Map 14-5-5B) proposed well installation, shed, and landscaping . *Brian Hassett, Guerriere and Halnon, Inc.* representing *Igor Davydenko*

- Mr. Hassett addressed the Commission's previous concerns about extent of disturbance and accuracy of well location.
- It was proposed that either a surveyor can place a stake at the precise drill location or stakes can be placed at the limit of setback requirements and the installer will drill within those constraints. After discussion the Commission requires the limit of setbacks (septic, edge of lot, and conservation) be staked and the well can be drilled within this area.
- The drill bit will be 8+.
- Most wells are about 300qdeep and typically produce 59.4 ft² of slurry discharge. The hay bale area designated to contain the slurry can hold about 169 ft².
- The well proposal has been submitted to Board of Health.
- Town water will be disconnected once well water is approved for consumption.
- The shed will be on sono tubes.

Dr. Rutberg made a motion to close the hearing for DEP # 185-831: 11 Minuteman Circle. Mr. Mensing seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

Dr. Rutberg made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP # 185-831: 11 Minuteman Circle with the discussed conditions. Mr. Mensing seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

****New Public Meeting - Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-620: 85 Central Street (Assessors Map 7-7-316)** proposed retention wall replacement . *Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc.* representing *Nicholas Prizio*

- Ms. Hastings waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on October 10, 2017.
- Ms. Hastings explained that the current retaining wall is comprised of old telephone pole and railroad ties. There is a lot of erosion occurring.
- The existing fence would be removed, half bale erosion controls will be installed, the old wall will be removed, and replaced with either poured concrete or a stacked block wall.
- Once work is complete the fence will be returned.
- There is excessive Japanese knotweed growth in the adjacent canal and Mr. Prizio would like to cut it back.
- It was agreed that since there is a lot of knotweed on the adjacent lot as well the best approach will be to cut or manually remove it but no herbicide can be applied.
- The work will take about one month and would like to finish work before it snows.

Dr. Rutberg made a motion to issue a negative 3 Determination of Applicability for #D-620: 85 Central Street with the conditions as stated. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

****New Public Hearing –Notice of Intent DEP File # 185-TBD: 665 Adams Street (Assessors Map 4-1-1)** proposed barn, fence, and access drive . *Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc.* representing *Daniel and Carla Bilger*

- Ms. Hastings waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on October 10, 2017.
- Ms. Hastings explained the property owners would like to construct a barn and fencing in a field, as well as an access drive between an existing fence and wetlands.
- The proximity of the access drive and the wetlands were discussed and it was agreed in areas where the gravel drive will abut wetlands a small berm will be constructed to prevent any gravel from shifting into the wetlands.
- The current use and vegetation present were discussed.
- The temporary manure pile must be outside the 100' buffer zone and a removal plan must be determined.
- The fence around the field will have a 4' gap underneath and no larger as there has been a coyote issue with current livestock.
- There is a woody debris pile at the edge of the field and in the 50' buffer zone. This will be removed.
- There is no DEP number.

Dr. Rutberg made a motion to close the hearing 665 Adams Street. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

****New Public Meeting - Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-618: 55 Dean Road (Assessors Map 11-8-161)** proposed septic system replacement . *Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc.* representing *Rev. James Kinnane*

- Ms. Hastings waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on October 10, 2017 for work related to replacing a failed septic system.
- Ms. Hastings explained the leaching field will be in the front yard and almost entirely outside the 100' buffer zone. The tank and pump chamber are in the 50' buffer zone; however, they will be entirely in a lawn area.
- There is an existing fence and flower bed between the limit of work and wetlands.

Mr. Mensing made a motion to issue a negative 3 Determination of Applicability for #D-618: 55 Dean Road with the conditions as stated. Dr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

****New Public Meeting - Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-619: 56 David Street (Assessors Map 7-7-316) proposed septic system replacement . Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc. representing Scott Alexander**

- Ms. Hastings waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on October 10, 2017 for work related to replacing a failed septic system.
- Ms. Hastings explained due to set back requirements and the location of water and gas lines the system must be in the back yard.
- Only a portion of the leaching field is in the 100' buffer zone and the rest is outside of it.
- Ms. O'Brien noted a path in the woods leading towards the wetlands with a lot of lawn clippings. Ms. Hastings will determine if it is in the 50' no-disturb and will inform the homeowner of our condition prohibiting dumping in the 50' no-disturb. If the yard waste is in the 50' no-disturb it will be moved.

Dr. Rutberg made a motion to issue a negative 3 Determination of Applicability for #D-619: 56 David Street with the conditions as stated. Mr. Mensing seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

****New Public Meeting - Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-621: 61 Roy Avenue (Assessors Map 11-8-145) proposed septic system replacement . Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc. representing Paul Marston**

- Ms. Hastings waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on October 10, 2017 for work related to replacing a failed septic system.
- Ms. Hastings explained the leaching field could not go in the front yard because of an existing water line.
- All work will be within the 50-100' buffer zone and all work will be in a previously disturbed area.

Ms. Buttaro made a motion to issue a negative 3 Determination of Applicability for #D-621: 61 Roy Avenue with the conditions as stated. Dr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).

Ms. O'Brien's Resignation

- Ms. O'Brien notified the Commission previously that she has accepted a position elsewhere and must resign from the Conservation Department as of November 1, 2017. She submitted her resignation letter.
- The Agent and Assistant position had not been posted as of the meeting. Mr. Bajdek and Ms. Weissman will speak with Jeff Ritter.
- The Commission discussed alternatives for handling clerical and agent work.

Mr. Mensing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).