

## **Holliston Conservation Commission**

### **APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

Town Hall . Meeting Room #014

September 17, 2013

7:30 PM

Present: Allen Rutberg, Chair; Ann Marie Pilch, Vice-Chair; Chris Bajdek, Jim McGrath, David Schroder, Commissioners

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

Absent: Shaw Lively, Rebecca Weissman, Commissioner

**Allen Rutberg, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:32 PM.**

### **General Business**

#### **Eagle Scout Proposal for Poitras/Daniels Conservation Land – Carl Berg, Troop 14**

Master Berg presented his proposal for his Eagle Scout project at the Poitras/Daniels Conservation Land. His Eagle Scout mentor, Charlie Paradie, and Marc Connelly from the Conservation Associates were present with Master Berg. He proposed to create and strategically place a kiosk with an updated map of the trails at the trailhead of the Poitras property next to the Holliston Historical Society. He would re-map the current trail network with a GPS tracker to create the map for the kiosk. He would also create and place a two-sided sign at the border of the Poitras/Daniels properties to let people know which part of the land they are in. The Commission agreed that they would like placing gravel down at the trailhead to prevent flooding, as well as basic maintenance to the aesthetics of the Poitras trailhead. The Commission asked if he could also mark any of the unmarked trails and put numbered posts at the intersections of trails.

Master Berg will create a more detailed project package and the Commission will sign his paperwork as the benefited party for the Knox Trail Council.

#### **Prioritization of Open Space & Recreation Plan Goals (Continued)**

The Commission continued to discuss the OSRP goals.

##### Lake Winthrop Management Plan

The Commission has been invited to the next Parks Commission meeting on October 9, 2013 to discuss the Lake Winthrop Management Plan. The Lake Winthrop Watershed Association has also been invited.

##### Field Baseline Data Collection of Individual Parcels with Data Sheet

Each Commissioner can do a pilot run for doing a baseline for specific parcels.

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Public Education . Could be linked to Lake Winthrop survey and management plan.

Linkages of Hiking Trails to Rail Trail

Identify possible linkages. Mr. Weidknecht's company developed a trail plan for Needham and Mr. McGrath knows someone from the Northborough Trail Committee, so these two towns have trail systems that can be used as models.

Handicap Accessible Trails

This goal should be kept in mind, because it will be required for the 2020 OSRP. It was suggested that the Rees Trail behind the Miller School would be a good trail to create accessibility.

**CPC Grant Application for Conservation Land Signage**

The Agent submitted a grant application for signage at the various Conservation properties to the Community Preservation Committee on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bajdek will represent the Commission at the CPC meeting on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> when they review the application.

**Grant Opportunities for Purchase of Town Forest Land and for Stewardship Planning of Town Forest**

The Agent discussed two new application opportunities that he has received.

**Forest Cutting Plan for Joseph Finn's Land off of Highland Street**

The Agent provided comments regarding the forest cutting plan delineation to Guy LaChance, DCR Bureau of Forestry. Mr. LaChance included all of the wetlands in this area. The wetlands can only be harvested when it is completely dry or frozen. It will have to be done when it is frozen, since this is a continuously wet seep even when it is a very dry summer. The truck traffic will be very high, because 150,000 board feet of wood is going to be harvested. The Agent will inform the police and the Highland Street residents about the increased traffic.

**Collaborative Services Initiative (CSI) Application – Proposal to Apply for Antioch New England Students to Assist with Open Space Management Plans**

Ms. Pilch presented an opportunity to apply for a team of 2 - 5 graduate students to assist the ConCom with its Open Space management. The application is due October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Commission brainstormed different ideas that could be submitted to Antioch University and will formalize their ideas at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Pond Levelers for Weston Pond/Paul Road – Beaver Solutions Proposals**

The Agent is working with the Mass Highway Survey Archives to retrieve an original plan of the highway and dam at Weston Pond. This plan is needed for a non-vehicle access permit from Mass Highway in order to put in the pond leveler. He is also working with the ACOE Real Estate division to get permission to put a pond leveler in at the Paul Road dam.

**Conservation Plaques for Wetland Buffer Zone Bounds**

Ms. O'Brien researched the type of plaques that would be best suited for the top of concrete bounds that are placed along the 50qNo-Disturb Line. Linda Wise from NEC

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Trophies in Ashland quoted a price of \$25.92 per plaque for a colored zinc plaque that is virtually weather-proof. These plaques would be epoxied onto the top of 6+x 6+x 4q bounds that will be sunk 3 feet into the ground.

The signs will say:

Wetlands Resource Area  
NO Dumping, Cutting, or Disturbance  
Beyond this Point  
Town of Holliston  
Conservation Commission

**Mr. McGrath made a motion to spend up to \$3,000 out of the Bylaw Fee Account for the no-disturb plaques. Mr. Bajdek seconded the motion. Ms. Pilch abstained. The motion passed. (4-0-1)**

#### **October Meeting Schedule**

The Commission discussed whether they would rather meet on October 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Commission decided to meet on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM after the Special Senate Primary election.

#### **Review Mail**

The mail was reviewed.

#### **Training for Commissioners**

The Fall MACC workshops are in November. Commissioner training can be paid for out of the Wetlands Protection Act or the Omnibus Education Fund.

**At 9:28 PM, Mr. McGrath made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schroder seconded the motion. Ms. Pilch abstained. The motion passed. (4-0-1)**

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be on October 1, 2013.