

**APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

Via Remote Participation

July 21, 2020

7:30 PM

Present: Christopher Bajdek, Chair; Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair, Jennifer Buttarro, Shaw Lively, Utah Nickel, Ann Marie Pilch, Commissioners

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent

Absent: Allen Rutberg, Commissioner

**Christopher Bajdek, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.**

**Mr. Bajdek read the following into the record:**

Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c 30A paragraph 20, as well as the Select Board's Emergency Order dated 3/16/2020 the Holliston Conservation Commission will be using remote participation for this meeting. The audio of this meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Town's webpage within 24 hours in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Action requirement of keeping the public informed of actions during this meeting. I would ask that all participants remotely attending this meeting please state your name for identification purposes each time you speak throughout the meeting.

At this time, a roll call attendance vote will be taken.

Mr. Bajdek:	Present
Ms. Weissman:	Present
Ms. Buttarro:	Present
Mr. Lively:	Present
Mr. Nickel:	Present
Ms. Pilch:	Present
Dr. Rutberg:	

**General Business**

**Review/Approve Minutes of 7/7/20**

- Mr. Clapp reported that he had received various comments from Commissioners regarding minor typos in the minutes of 7/7/20, but no comments substantially revising any sections of the minutes.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of 7/7/20. Mr. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek:	Aye
Ms. Weissman:	Aye
Ms. Buttarro:	Aye

Mr. Lively: Aye  
Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

**Request for a Certificate of Compliance: DEP #185-869: #185 Fiske Street**

- Mr. Clapp reported that the Commission had recently issued the Order of Conditions for a septic replacement at #185 Fiske Street, and the work was now completed. However, Mr. Clapp noted that the ground was not stabilized with vegetation, and recommends a Partial Certificate of Compliance.
- Ms. Pilch inquired as to how lawn growth for stabilization would be addressed given the water ban in Holliston. Ms. Weissman believes there is a permit that a homeowner can acquire from the water department to allow for watering of new lawns.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance for DEP #185-869: #185 Fiske Street. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek: Aye  
Ms. Weissman: Aye  
Ms. Buttaro: Aye  
Mr. Lively: Aye  
Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to authorize Christopher Bajdek to sign the Certificate of Compliance for DEP #185-869: #185 Fiske Street on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek: Aye  
Ms. Weissman: Aye  
Ms. Buttaro: Aye  
Mr. Lively: Aye  
Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

**Discussion: Donation of Land off Adams Street (Parcel ID: 004.0-0002-0043.0)**

- Mr. Clapp reported that Ms. Karen Paul had contacted him, interested in donating a 22 acre parcel off of Adams Street to the Commission. Mr. Clapp noted that the parcel directly abuts the Fairbanks Conservation Land, is nearby NHESP rare species habitat, and contains a certified vernal pool.
- Ms. Pilch noted that this land is ideal for acquisition as it is surrounded by protected land in both Holliston and Milford.
- Mr. Clapp noted that Ms. Paul had several conditions for donating the land, including a commemorative bench. Mr. Clapp will review the conditions with Ms. Paul.

- The Commission is interested in pursuing this acquisition further.

### **Review Correspondence / Other**

- Mr. Clapp reported that he had received the Emerald Ash Borer report from Davey Tree Resources. He has various questions on the report that Davey is in the process of answering. However, the report provided enough information to proceed with the tree removals.
- Mr. Clapp noted that Ms. Olivia Barksdale from Mass Audubon will be performing annual Conservation Restriction monitoring site visits at the Mellen Street property and Warren Woods this upcoming Thursday. Ms. Pilch expressed interest in joining, but noted Warren Woods has no access points in Holliston. Mr. Clapp will contact the Ashland Conservation Commission for access to the property.

### **Public Hearings/Public Meetings**

**Request for Determination of Applicability #D-675: #15 Northway Street (Assessors Map 9-2-45) for proposed replacement septic system – GLM Engineering, representing Alice McNeil**

**Documents:** WPA Form 1; Plan of Land entitled “Proposed Sewage Disposal System, 15 Northway Street, Holliston, Massachusetts,” dated 6/25/2020

- Mr. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- Ms. Joyce Hastings presented the project to the Commission. The septic system currently serving the house is failing, and the applicant is looking to install a new one. The new system is within the 100’ buffer zone, but will remain outside the 50’ no disturbance buffer zone. She noted that the new system will be located further away from the wetlands than the existing system.
- Mr. Bajdek inquired if any trees will need to be removed for this project. Ms. Hastings noted that there may be some root damage, but no trees are proposed for removal.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue a Negative #3 Determination for #D-675: #15 Northway Street. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek:	Aye
Ms. Weissman:	Aye
Ms. Buttaro:	Aye
Mr. Lively:	Aye
Mr. Nickel:	Aye
Ms. Pilch:	Aye
Dr. Rutberg:	

**Mr. Nickel made a motion to authorize Christopher Bajdek to sign the Determination of Applicability #D-675 on behalf of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek: Aye  
Ms. Weissman: Aye  
Ms. Buttaro: Aye  
Mr. Lively: Aye  
Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

**Notice of Intent for DEP #185- 866: #1569 Washington Street (Assessors Map 5-3-62)** for proposed gravel storage area – *GLM Engineering*, representing *Michael Alves*

**Documents:** WPA Form 3; Plan Set entitled “Site Plan of Land, Scooby Truck Sales, 1569 Washington Street, Holliston, Massachusetts,” dated 2/24/20 (rev. 3/8/20)

- Ms. Hastings requested a continuance to the meeting on 9/8/20.
- Ms. Pilch inquired as to the reason this hearing has been continued for so long. Ms. Hastings noted that the location of the storage area was not suitable to the Planning Board, and the site had to be resurveyed for other options.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-866: #1569 Washington Street to the meeting on 9/8/20. Mr. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek: Aye  
Ms. Weissman: Aye  
Ms. Buttaro: Aye  
Mr. Lively: Aye  
Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

**Notice of Intent for DEP #185-871: “0” Mill Street (Assessors Map 7-4-55.1&55.2)** for proposed replacement stormwater structures – *GLM Engineering*, representing *Thomas Murch*

**Documents:** WPA Form 3; Plan Set entitled “Definitive Open Space Subdivision ‘Triangle Farm’ a 7 Lot Single Family Residential Subdivision, Holliston, Massachusetts,” dated 6/15/20

- The stormwater report is still under review by CMG Environmental.
- Mr. Clapp noted that he had received complaints regarding tires dumped on the parcel to be donated to the Commission as part of the project. Ms. Hastings clarified that this was not the parcel to be built upon, and that aspect can be addressed when the Commission accepts the land.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-871: “0” Mill Street until 8/4/2020. Mr. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Conservation Commission Minutes 7-21-20  
Drafted for the Commission by: Ryan Clapp  
Approved by the Commission: 8-4-20

Mr. Bajdek: Aye  
Ms. Weissman: Aye  
Ms. Buttarro: Aye  
Mr. Lively: Aye  
Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

**Notice of Intent for DEP #185-872: 10 Bald Hill Road (Assessors Map 11-2-32)** for proposed yard maintenance, walkway repair, and shed installation– *GLM Engineering*, representing *Timothy Horan*

**Documents:** WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Proposed Maintenance Plan, 10 Bald Hill Road, Holliston, Massachusetts,” dated 6/17/2020 (rev. 7/17/2020)

- Ms. Hastings noted that a site walk occurred on Friday, July 17 with Mr. Clapp, Ms. Weissman, Ms. Pilch, and herself. She noted that a few changes have been made to the plan since the previous meeting. She has located a Conservation Restriction that Mr. Clapp had identified on the property, noting that the entirety of the project was proposed outside of that area. She also has added a planting landscape plan for the area between the driveways.
- Ms. Pilch noted that mountain andromeda, one of the proposed plants, is not native. She is opposed to this plant, but finds the others agreeable. She agrees that the pine trees between the driveways are reasonable to remove, but less so for the other trees. She especially wants the basswood tree to remain, as it is healthy, provides wildlife habitat, and is uncommon in Holliston. She requested more specifications as to which trees are to be removed, with proper species label.
- Mr. Lively asked Ms. Pilch as to the wildlife value of paper birch (a proposed plant) versus existing oak. Ms. Pilch responded that they are similar, though birch often has a shorter lifespan. Ms. Hastings noted that these trees were mislabeled as oak, and are actually maple, and that given the Commission’s reservations are not planned for removal.
- Ms. Pilch inquired as to how the invasive plants will be removed. Ms. Hastings stated that they are to be cut low, without stumps removed. If the plant is too large for hand removal, herbicides will be used. Mr. Clapp requested that if herbicides are to be used, he be informed as to who will apply them and when they will be applied.
- Mr. Lively expressed concern about setting precedent for installing a shed so close to the wetlands. Mr. Clapp responded that the Commission has previously allowed for sheds and decks within the 50’, provided they are on sonatubes to minimize ground disturbance. Mr. Nickel responded that the concern is not about the structure, but more for the use of storing a lawn mower and gasoline.
- Ms. Hastings noted that secondary containment could be used to avoid gas spills, and that only the machine be stored in the shed, not leftover gas.
- Ms. Weissman noted that the alternative to the shed is storage as it is now: outside under a tarp. In her opinion, a shed provides better containment.
- Ms. Hastings noted that while this aspect is not within the Commission’s purview, to address anticipated abutter concerns the shed is to be screened with vegetation from the street.
- Mr. Jay DuPuis expressed concerns about setting precedent with encroachment into the 50’ No Disturbance Zone. He noted that the shed seems unnecessary since the lawnmower can simply be stored in the garage.

- Ms. Tracy DuPuis inquired as to who the responsible person for compliance with any permit granted to the applicant is. Mr. Clapp responded that as the Commission's staff, it is his responsibility.
- Dr. Pam Breitschneider does not agree with the shed, seconding Mr. DuPuis's sentiment that it is not necessary.

**Mr. Lively made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-872: #10 Bald Hill Road until 8/4/2020. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek:	Aye
Ms. Weissman:	Aye
Ms. Buttaro:	Aye
Mr. Lively:	Aye
Mr. Nickel:	Aye
Ms. Pilch:	Aye
Dr. Rutberg:	

**Notice of Intent for DEP #185-XXX: 185 Cedar Street (Assessors Map 14-3-1)** for proposed yard 24-unit residential development – *GLM Engineering*, representing *David Adams, Indian Ridge Realty Trust*

**Documents:** WPA Form 3; Plan Set entitled "Site Development Plan of Land, A 40B Comprehensive Permit Project, 'Geoffrey Park,' Holliston, Massachusetts," dated 2/29/2020 (rev. 5/14/2020)

- Mr. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- Mr. Clapp reported that abutters in Ashland were not notified. As such, the hearing must be continued to allow adequate time for notification.

**Ms. Weissman made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-XXX: #185 Cedar Street until the next meeting on 8/4/2020. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek:	Aye
Ms. Weissman:	Aye
Ms. Buttaro:	Aye
Mr. Lively:	Aye
Mr. Nickel:	Aye
Ms. Pilch:	Aye
Dr. Rutberg:	

**Mr. Lively made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 PM. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Mr. Bajdek:	Aye
Ms. Weissman:	Aye
Ms. Buttaro:	Aye
Mr. Lively:	Aye

Mr. Nickel: Aye  
Ms. Pilch: Aye  
Dr. Rutberg:

***\*\*All documents shall be kept in the Conservation Commission Office files\*\****