

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Via Remote Participation

August 16, 2022

7:30 PM

Present: Ann Marie Pilch, Chair; Eilish Corey, Utah Nickel, Commissioners; Richard Shansky, Alternate Commissioner

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent

Absent: Allen Rutberg, Vice Chair; Jacquelyn Valsamis, Rebecca Weissman, Commissioners

Ann Marie Pilch, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

A. Pilch read the following into the record:

Pursuant to the Governor's June 16, 2021 Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c 30A paragraph 20, 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 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.

A. Rutberg:	Absent
E. Corey:	Present
U. Nickel:	Present
J. Valsamis:	Absent
R. Weissman:	Absent
R. Shansky:	Present
A. Pilch:	Present

General Business

Review/Approve Minutes of 7/12/2022 & 8/2/2022

- Both sets of minutes were tabled until August 30, 2022

Request for a Partial Certificate of Compliance: DEP #185-542: #115 Fairview Street

U. Nickel made a motion to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance for DEP #185-542: #115 Fairview Street. R. Shansky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye

R. Shansky: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

Request for a Certificate of Compliance: DEP #185-654: #30 Whitney Street

- R. Clapp reported that this project had a Request for a Certificate of Compliance submitted several years ago that was denied, as an oil and water separator was required but not installed. The separator has since been installed, and all is in compliance, except that the required access points for turtles through the chain link fence have been overgrown.

U. Nickel made a motion to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance for DEP #185-654: #30 Whitney Street, subject to clearing of the turtle fencing. R. Shansky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
R. Shansky: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

Issue Amended Order of Conditions: DEP #185-865: "0" Marshall Street

- R. Clapp reviewed the draft Amended Order of Conditions.

U. Nickel made a motion to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for DEP #185-865: 0 Marshall Street. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
R. Shansky: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

Letter of Support – MassAudubon grant on Highland Street

- A. Pilch noted that MassAudubon is seeking a grant on Highland Street to restore and manage a 10-acre field as shrubland. The area connects various areas of open space and is very valuable. The Commission offered support for the grant. A. Pilch will draft a letter.

Review Correspondence

- R. Clapp reviewed the Trustees of Reservation reports on the NSTAR parcel and the Fairbanks Land. A. Pilch does not want to hold off on addressing the trails issue, and wants a partnership with NEMBA to address them.
- E. Corey is planning to start rudimentary trailmapping on some of the smaller parcels.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings

Public Meeting – Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-721: #66 Shaw Farm Road (Assessors Map 6-2-57) for proposed replacement septic system – *CIVILized Solutions*, representing *Linda Lange*

Documents: WPA Form 1; Plan of Land entitled “Septic System Construction, 66 Shaw Farm Road, Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 7/25/2022

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- Karon Skinner-Catrone presented the project to the Commission. The septic system at #66 Shaw Farm Road is failing and must be replaced. The proposed location is within existing lawn, with a limit of work approximately 70’ from the edge of wetlands. No work is proposed within the 50’ No Disturbance Zone and no trees need to be removed.
- R. Clapp noted a large downed tree onsite. He inquired if it would be removed and if it had been cut. K. Skinner-Catrone was unaware of such a tree, indicating it had come down recently.

U. Nickel made a motion to issue a Negative #3 Determination of #D-721: #66 Shaw Farm Road. R. Shansky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-928: “0” Bartzak Drive (Assessors Map 14-4-21.4) for proposed construction of a solar power generation system and associated site work – *Beals Associates*, representing *John Clifford, Bartzak PV, LLC*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan Set entitled “Plans to Accompany Permit Documents for Large-Scale Solar Power Generation System, 0 Bartzak Drive, Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 7/27/2022

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- Devin Howe provided background on Galehead Development. He noted that this project is surrounded by industrial use on the north, south and west, with residential areas to the east. While the legal frontage is on Praying Indian Way, best access is off of Bartzak Drive. This is a largely undeveloped site with forest cover, but a portion is disturbed and was used as a landscaping yard with various materials and gravel onsite. The wetland resource area is located to the southeast, with a portion of the 100’ buffer zone crossing into the project. Clearing of vegetation would be required on nearly all on the property, and the project requires various utility installations. Along the edge of concrete pads they are looking to install stone trenches to collect stormwater. No solar panels are proposed within 50’ of the wetlands, but tree clearing is proposed in that area. D. Howe reviewed the various performance standards

under the Act, believing this project to comply with them. They have also filed with the Planning Board for site plan review and special permit.

- R. Clapp raised concerns noting that the isolated wetland is a potential vernal pool.
- R. Shansky is concerned about the amount of clearing within the 50'. D. Howe noted that in the northern hemisphere, most direct sunlight is from the south, so clearing to the south maximizes amount of energy to produce. U. Nickel inquired if there was a measurement of efficiency with and without cutting of trees. D. Howe can provide that information. R. Shansky is interested in knowing what the heights of the trees and number of trees in that area and requested information if there was any option for selective cutting in that area as opposed to clear cutting.
- U. Nickel inquired if meadow would be native seed mix. D. Howe provided species names of the seed mix, but A. Pilch noted some grasses may be nonnative.
- E. Corey inquired regarding grading. D. Howe reviewed that only grading is for access road. The rest of the site would be largely ungraded, maintaining the existing grade and flowpaths that will not be flattened.
- E. Corey noted there are mulch berms along the edge of the site and inquired if they would remain post construction. After discussion, it was decided the mulch berms should be removed post construction.
- E. Corey requested details on stone infiltration trenches. D. Howe reviewed the details on the plan set. E. Corey noted there is no pretreatment, which is usually recommended. D. Howe has considered this, but given the scale of the project, it is only included in the O&M Plan to check them in the fall after leaves drop to make sure they aren't clogged. Any observable signs of failure shall be addressed immediately. R. Clapp noted the Planning Board is taking the responsibility for the stormwater peer review
- Thomas Keefe, 5 Mohawk Path opposes any modification of 100' wetland buffer zone, designed to protect the abutting wetland. His concern is that the degrading solar panels may contaminate the adjacent wetlands. He also noted there is a "wet area" not depicted on the site. He also inquired if the tree cutting would be a select cut, or would they be offered carte-blanche? A. Pilch clarified that any future disturbance, including tree cutting, not covered under this application, would be required to come before the Commission, unless it is covered under the conditions of the Order of Conditions. He also inquired if there will be blasting. D. Howe confirmed there would not be blasting. He also noted he has observed flooding on Jennings Road during rainstorm. Drainage goes downhill through the property into the wetlands. Does not know if grading will affect runoff. D. Howe noted that throughout the solar field, there is limited grading with the bulk of grading is associated with constructing an access road.
- Zhuo Yang, 5 Mohawk Path inquired as to what technique will be used to remove ledge, if not via blasting. D. Howe noted there is no plan to remove ledge. A. Pilch noted if that changes, the Order of Conditions will have to be amended.
- Joe Falcao, 27 Mohawk Path, inquired if there was any study done on the effect on children in the neighborhood, particularly related to health, safety and recreation. A. Pilch noted this is outside the scope of the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. This would be up to the Planning Board, who are having their own hearing in September
- Yogesh Athawale, 42 Mohawk Path, inquired if there was any wildlife study done regarding the effect of the removal of thousands of trees.

- Dileep and Sandhya Simhadri, 7 Minuteman Circle, shared concerns previously mentioned, and inquired if there was any data on the effect on human health of solar farms and electromagnetic waves.
- Nagapadman Nagarajan, 28 Indian Circle, shares concerns with Tom Keefe and Joe Falcao.
- Ram Subramanian, 23 Indian Circle, shares concerns with Tom Keefe and Joe Falcao.
- Saarthak Sethi, 85 Old Cart Path, shares concerns with Tom Keefe and Joe Falcao, noting a lack of understanding of impact to children and people in the surrounding area.
- Andrea Lynch, 251 Marked Tree Road, noted with so many tree removals, the project does not feel very “green”.
- Atul Suri, 18 Praying Indian Way, inquired if there would be further opportunity to discuss when newer data is available. A. Pilch confirmed this to be the case.
- Varun Vyas, 19 Old Cart Path, shares concerns with Tom Keefe and Joe Falcao, and wonders why a more suitable location in town could not be chosen.
- Haider & Patel Family, 132 Mohawk Path, shares concerns with Tom Keefe and Joe Falcao. Opposes the proposed project.
- Leela Mandalju, 87 Mohawk Path, shares concerns with Tom Keefe and Joe Falcao, and is concerned about heat generation.

U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-928: 0 Bartzak Drive until the meeting on 8/30/2022. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Hearing – Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions for DEP #185-839: #58 Hopping Brook Road (Assessors Map 4-6-35.2) for proposed expansion of existing building foundation – *GLM Engineering*, representing *Richard Gordon, Hopping Brook Development*

Documents: Plan set entitled “Site Development Plan, Proposed Commercial Building, 58 Hopping Brook Road, Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 1/19/2015 (rev. 8/15/2022)

- R. Truax noted that at the last meeting, revised plans were requested. The plans were submitted yesterday, showing a recharge system off the side of the building outside the buffer zone. E. Corey is agreeable to the revisions.
- R. Clapp noted there was discussion regarding maintenance of the lawn area. He will condition the Amended Order to describe future maintenance of that area.

U. Nickel made a motion to close the public hearing for DEP #185-839: #58 Hopping Brook Road. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-927: #369 Concord Street (Assessors Map 11-6-251) for proposed restoration of altered buffer zone and installation of horse paddocks – *Goddard Consulting*, representing *Rayane Da Costa Lima*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Topographic Plan, 369 Concord Street, Holliston, Mass” dated 11/28/2021

- R. Clapp noted the applicant had requested a continuance until the next meeting on 8/30/2022.

U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-927: #369 Concord Street until the next meeting on 8/30/2022. R. Shansky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-925: “0” Old Cart Path (Assessors Map 14-5-2.1, 2.2, 3.A) for proposed stormwater basin for a four-lot residential subdivision – *Guerriere & Halnon*, representing *Constitution Village, LLC*

- Robert Duff reviewed the minimal plan changes as required from the stormwater peer review. There is no further comment from the Planning Board.

U. Nickel made a motion to close the public hearing for DEP #185-925: 0 Old Cart Path. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

U. Nickel made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP #185-925: 0 Old Cart Path. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-926: “0” Hill Street (Assessors Map 6.1-1-6.C) for proposed stormwater basin for a two-lot residential subdivision – *Legacy Engineering*, representing *Community Development Partners, LLC*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan Set entitled “Hidden Cove Definitive Subdivision” dated 3/11/2022

- R. Clapp noted that this hearing had already been continued to 8/30/2022 at the last meeting.

Public Hearing – Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions for DEP #185-885: #66 Old Cart Path (Assessors Map 14-5-322) for proposed single family house addition and expansion of septic system – *Guerriere & Halnon*, representing *Arun Narayanan*

Documents: Plan of land entitled “Septic Upgrade & Building Addition Site Development & Facilities Plan for 66 Old Cart Path in Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 7/12/2022

- R. Clapp noted the applicant had requested a continuance until the meeting on 8/30/2022.

U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-885: #66 Old Cart Path until the next meeting on 8/30/2022. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

U. Nickel made a motion to adjourn at 9:36 PM. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

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