

# Holliston Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Town Hall- Meeting Room #014

November 1, 2016

7:30 PM

Present: Chris Bajdek, Chair; Emily Kingston, Vice-Chair; Jennifer Buttarro, Shaw Lively, Ann Marie Pilch (arrived at 7:35), Allen Rutberg, Rebecca Weissman, Commissioners  
Sheri O'Brien, Conservation Agent; Kristin O'Brien, Conservation Assistant

Absent: None

Chris Bajdek, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:31 PM.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Request for Certificate of Compliance for 62 Indian Ridge Road South (Lot 189) for DEP File #185-657 - Chris Torti/GLM

- Ms. S. O'Brien found during a site visit two plaques were not attached properly; one was firmly attached, but slid down the granite and was hanging off the edge, the other was on a small outcrop of a boulder and easily removed.
- Ms. S. O'Brien recommended the plaques be reattached and the loose one be moved to an adjacent boulder with a flat surface.
- After discussion, the Commission agreed the plaques need to be fixed and no vote will occur until all is in order.

### Request for Administrative Change for DEP File #185-803: 128 Fisher Street - Plant Substitution for Buffer Zone Restoration Areas - Art Allen, EcoTec for Ken Lacourse/Protech Energy Solutions

- The Commission reviewed and discussed the request Art Allen submitted, which stated he would like to replace the New York Fern with Marginal Woodfern and Spicebush with Maleberry, as well as adding restoration seed mix with the hydromulch to the restoration areas to help suppress invasive plant growth.

**Ms. Kingston made a motion to approve an Administrative Change to the Order of Conditions, as discussed, for DEP File # 185-803: 128 Fisher Street. Dr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Unanimous. (7-0-0)**

### Discussion: Tree Removal Policy

- The Commission reviewed and discussed details of the current tree cutting policy and extent of the Agent's approval.
- The Commission agreed to updating current tree cutting policy.
- Mr. Lively recommended flagging approved trees to be removed with distinct Conservation flagging to reduce confusion with other markings.

**Ms. Kingston made a motion to approve the Conservation Commission Tree Removal Policy as drafted with edits. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. Unanimous. (7-0-0).**

## PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

### \*\*New Public Meeting - Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-587: 137 Hill Street (Assessors Map 5-5-40) proposed construction of a three-season porch – Tim Donahue

- Ms. S. O'Brien and Mr. Donahue explained the location of the proposed three-season porch addition in relation to the home and nearby wetlands.
- The porch will be 30qx 18qor smaller.
- The proposed porch area is currently lawn with an old stone wall between the yard and most of the wetlands.
- The concrete support posts will be installed with Technoposts, which screw the posts into the ground, not dug as they are traditionally. This will greatly reduce disturbance.
- After discussion of equipment and erosion controls or their equivalent, the Commission agreed straw wattle erosion controls should be placed between the pond and the house, as indicated on the plan.
- The porch will be raised off the ground, resting on the posts.
- The Commission asked for two (2) plaques to be attached to unmovable boulders in the stone wall where it meets the wetlands, as indicated on the plan.
- Mr. Donahue signed the plan with the following annotations; location of the erosion controls and plaques.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue the following Determinations for RFD #D-587: 137 Hill Street, with the discussed conditions; Positive 2B, Positive 5, and Negative 3. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Unanimous. (7-0-0).**

**Continued Public Meeting - Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-576 and #D577: 194 Lowland Street (Assessors Map 9-2-57.1) proposed removal of compost and earth products and recycled asphalt materials - George F. Connors, Esq. representing Michael Brumber**

- The Commission and Ms. S. O'Brien discussed the memo with Commission questions for the applicant that was sent to the Planning Board for their October 20, 2016 meeting.
- At the Planning Board meeting, Mr. Connors was given letters from several departments, which contained their respective questions and concerns pertaining to his construction plans. Mr. Connors agreed to meet with the departments in question in late November to respond.
- Mr. Connors will go to the December 8, 2016 Planning Board Meeting to formally respond to these questions.

**In the absence of the applicant or representative, Ms. Kingston made a motion to continue the public meetings for #D-576 and #D577: 194 Lowland Street until the November 29, 2016 meeting. Dr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Unanimous. (7-0-0).**

**Vote on Draft Meeting Minutes - 10/11/16, 10/18/16**

- For both the 10/11/16 and 10/18/16 minutes, Ms. K. O'Brien will revise the 10/18/16 minutes per comments discussed.

**Ms. Kingston made a motion to accept the 10/11/16 minutes with discussed edits. Dr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Ms. Pilch, Ms. Buttaro, and Mr. Lively abstained. The motion was passed. (4-0-3).**

**Mr. Lively made a motion to accept the 10/18/16 minutes with discussed edits. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Ms. Weissman and Ms. Kingston abstained. The motion was passed. (5-0-2).**

**Review Correspondence**

- No correspondence to review.

**Signature Documents**

- The Commissioners signed a memo regarding %Authorized Signatures for the Conservation Commission.+This allows Conservation staff to approve and sign invoices under \$200.
- The Commissioners signed a memo regarding %Conservation Commission Signatures for Notarization Purposes.+

#### **Water Level Control Installation due to Beaver Dam**

- Ms. S. O'Brien explained that the Board of Health issued a 10-day Emergency Beaver Permit for the installation of two water level control devices through a beaver dam near Christopher Road.
- The dam increased water levels upstream and is threatening several septic systems on Christopher Road.
- Ms. S. O'Brien has been working with Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control (CMMC) and the Highway Department.
- Ms. S. O'Brien issued a WPA Emergency Certificate so that CMMC could install the devices.

**Ms. Weissman made a motion to ratify the Emergency Certificate. Ms. Kingston seconded the motion. Unanimous. (7-0-0).**

#### **467 Gorwin Drive**

- This property has been repossessed by the bank and sold to a real estate company.
- A neighbor has complained about trash being dumped onto conservation land behind the house.
- Ms. S. O'Brien walked the property line and noticed a lot of old junk on the property behind the house.
- There are obvious renovations being done at the house but no building permits were filed.
- The Building Department will look into this.
- Staff will determine if the area of dumping is actually part of Town Conservation Land or US Army Corps Land.

#### **Plaques**

- The price of plaques has increased significantly since they were last purchased.
- Ms. K. O'Brien will get quotes from other companies.

#### **Roger Road Farm Conservation Restriction**

- The Commission discussed the current standing of the Roger Road Farm Conservation Restriction.
- Ms. S. O'Brien will make some edits and send to the Commission for review.

#### **Lot 36 Old Cart Path**

- Ms. S. O'Brien showed pictures of erosion on a slope on Lot 36 Old Cart Path, which was purported to have had erosion control Curlex fabric installed (per Alex Gow, Fafard). No fabric appeared on the slope.

#### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**

- Karen Sherman had previously submitted the plan to the State and it was provisionally approved in September 2013, which Ms. S. O'Brien and most of the Commission was not aware of.
- The Commission discussed what still needs to be done and what Ms. Sherman has requested.
- Mr. Charles Katuska's assistance will not be required for this plan, however the Commission would like him to submit a proposal to develop the Bylaw Regulations.

**Ms. Weissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Ms. Kingston seconded the motion. Unanimous. (7-0-0).**