

Holliston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Town Hall- Meeting Room #014

March 21, 2017

7:30 PM

Present: Chris Bajdek, Chair; Rebecca Weissman (left at 9:37 PM), Vice Chair; Jennifer Buttaro, Shaw Lively, Ann Marie Pilch, Commissioners
Sheri O'Brien, Conservation Agent; Kristin O'Brien, Conservation Assistant
Absent: Allen Rutberg, Commissioner

Chris Bajdek, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Informal Discussion: 216 Underwood St- Proposed Shed – J. Jeffrey Rutter

- Mr. Rutter explained he would like to install a pre-constructed shed so that the front part of the shed will be on the edge of his driveway. The back of the shed will rest on concrete blocks on existing lawn.
- The desired location is at or near the 50' no-disturb line; however, it was previously disturbed area and is the only sensible location due to the layout of the home and driveway.
- No trees will be removed and the 12' x 16' shed will rest on concrete blocks; no foundation will be dug.
- Mr. Rutter wanted to discuss his options with the Commission before filing an application.
- Due to the lack of a reasonable alternative and that the shed will be on already disturbed land the Commission found his request agreeable. The Commission will wait until a Request for Determination of Applicability (RFD) is submitted before making a final decision.

Land Stewardship Updates

- Ms. S. O'Brien gave the following updates about current Conservation Restrictions (CR)
 - Rogers Road Farm CR - Ms. S. O'Brien met with Kristine Westfield about the Rogers Road CR and they made revisions which still need to be finalized. Still waiting for a survey (funding just approved by the Selectmen) to be completed before the CR can be submitted.
 - The Farm Advisory Board submitted an RFD to build an apiary and a fence. There is a potential vernal pool nearby, but the work will be outside the 100' no-touch vernal pool buffer zone, plus the impact of the hives and fence would be minimal. The area was historically a gravel pit.
 - Warren Woods - The Warren Woods CR is almost ready to send to Town Counsel for review.
 - Brooksmont CR - The Brooksmont CR needs to be reviewed before it is sent to Town Counsel.
 - 77 Mellen Street Potential CR - The owners of 77 Mellen Street have reconsidered their offer; Ms. S. O'Brien believes it is partially due to the cost of an endowment. They will reach out to the Commission if they decide to move forward again.
 - Arcadian Farm Agricultural Restriction - If the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture is granted the federal funds that they applied for, they plan to ask the town for the remaining funds (~\$184,000) at the October 2017 or May 2018 Town Meetings. The Town would require an independent appraisal of the property before granting the additional funds, which will take time and most likely delaying the request to the May 2018 Town Meeting.
 - Poitras Eagle Scout Project . Master Jeff Meyers agreed to use clean gravel for his trail repairs and Mike Brumber agreed to donate the clean gravel.

Town Dam Updates

- Ms. S. O'Brien explained that Phase II inspections for Houghton Pond Dam will begin shortly. There are enough funds left from last Town Meeting (~\$17,000) to begin Phase II, but another \$50,000 will be needed to finish the state required updates for the Houghton Pond dam and to continue with the state-mandated inspections for the other 3 dams in town.
- The Highway Department was supposed to clear brush on the dam last week, but the snow storm delayed the work.
- At the May 2017 Town Meeting the Commission must present a warrant for the remaining \$50,000, stressing that this work (repairs or dam removal) is required by the state's Office of Dam Safety and further delay will result in fines.

Vote on Draft Meeting Minutes – 2/28/17

- Comments and edits were discussed.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to accept the 02/28/17 minutes with the discussed edits. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Mr. Lively abstained. The motion passed. (4-0-1).

Review Correspondence

- No correspondence to review.

Commissioner Thank You Letter

- Ms. S. O'Brien wrote a Thank You letter for Emily Kingston.
- The Commissioners read and signed the letter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-823: 1670 Washington St (Assessors Map 5-4-26) proposed addition to autobody repair shop – Joyce Hastings/GLM Engineering representing Michael Ibrahim/Hometown Automotive Service & Sales, Inc.

- Ms. Hastings was present, and gave an overview of the project, and explained that the hearing was continued until the peer review of the stormwater report was completed and addressed.
- The stormwater report was reviewed by TetraTech and they had several comments, including redirecting roof run-off to an underground recharge area resulting in a smaller basin. Ms. Hastings explained there was no viable area to redirect the roof run-off.
- All other comments were explained and addressed reasonably by Ms. Hastings.
- The Zoning permit limits the number of vehicles allowed on the property and in certain areas.
- The drain outlet for the sink in the garage has not been addressed at this time, but will be determined by the Board of Health's review.
- Ms. Hastings explained all floor drains will go to an underground tight tank, which will be outside the 100-foot buffer zone.
- Ms. S. O'Brien expressed concern that snow was currently being plowed to the edge of the parking lot out front, so that it went over the edge and into the wetlands. It was pointed out that there is a Special Condition in the Order of Conditions that does not allow snow to be plowed into the wetlands. Ms. Hastings promised to relay this information to the applicant/current leaser of the property.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to close the hearing for the Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-823: 1670 Washington Street. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP File #185-823: 1670 Washington Street, with the discussed conditions. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

Continued Public Hearing – Request for an Amendment to the Order of Conditions for DEP File #185-781: Hopping Brook Road Extension (Assessors Map 1, Block 1, Lots 43 & 51.1 and Map 4, Block 6, Lots 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 32.1, 32.3 & 33.0) proposed road realignment – Peter Bemis/Engineering Design Consultants representing Jon Delli Priscoli

- Mr. Bemis and Mr. Delli Priscoli were present and had an endorsed plan from the Planning Board.
- All peer review comments were address and there are no changes to the plan.
- The Commission stated that they would reduce the filing fees from 75% to 50% of the original fee. With the approval of last meetings minutes the refund can be issued to Mr. Bemis, per Mr. Delli Priscoli's request.
- Mr. Bemis stated that they have been doing regular stormwater inspections.
- Ms. S. O'Brien reminded the applicant that the expiration date for the Order of Conditions is not extended with the Amendment and will expire next year.
- Mr. Bemis will notify the Commission when stormwater maintenance is transferred to the Industrial Park Building Association.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to close the hearing for the Amended Order of Conditions for DEP File # 185-781: Hopping Brook Road Extension. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for DEP File #185-781: Hopping Brook Road Extension, with the discussed conditions. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

****New Public Hearing – Request for an Amendment to the Order of Conditions for DEP File # 185-763: Lot 18 Kingsbury Drive (Assessors Map 5-3-54.B) proposed modification to the house location and the addition of a well – Lou Petrozzi/Wall Street Development Corporation**

- Mr. Petrozzi was present and waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on March 14, 2017.
- Abutter notification cards were submitted.
- Mr. Petrozzi explained there is a current Order of Conditions for this lot, but once they attempted to start work, they realized the amount of ledge was more extensive than they had thought; therefore, the foundation of the house could not be constructed where the ledge was located.
- In addition, the town cannot supply a waterline to the home, so a well will have to be installed.
- The footprint of the proposed house will not change, but the location will be moved further into the 100' buffer zone; and the proposed well will be installed in the 100' buffer zone. The proposed septic system would not be moved or alter.
- The wetland replication area was not started last summer due to the excessive drought. He plans to install plants this spring.
- There was further discussion about the well.
- Mr. Bajdek stated the change is straight forward, but there would more encroachment into the 100' buffer zone.
- There was discussion about the location and extent of ledge on the property which is very limiting to the type and location of work that can be done.
- The affidavit of service dated March 10, 2017 had the wrong DEP File Number. Mr. Petrozzi initialed the correction of the DEP File Number.
- Ms. S. O'Brien reminded Mr. Petrozzi that the Order of Conditions expiration date (June 2017) is not changed with the Amendment and he would have to request an Extension no later than the end of this May plus 100% of the original filing fee.
- Mr. Petrozzi requested a 3-year extension versus the typical 1-year extension, since it would take at least 2 years for the house to be ready for sale.
- The Commission agreed to consider his request when it is submitted to the ConCom office.

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Issued by: Kristin O'Brien

Approved by Commission: 04-04-17

Ms. Pilch made a motion to close the hearing for the Amended Order of Conditions for DEP File # 185-763: Lot 18 Kingsbury Drive. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for DEP File #185-763: Lot 18 Kingsbury Drive, with the discussed conditions. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

****New Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-825: 8-Arch Bridge - Adjacent to 126 Woodland Street (Assessors Map 1-1-52.4) proposed restoration of the 8-Arch Bridge and vegetation maintenance – Robert Weidknecht/Chair, Holliston Trails Committee**

- Mr. Weidknecht, Herb Brockert (8 Arch Bridge Committee), and Barbara Keene Briggs (Tree Specialists) were present. Mr. Weidknecht waived the reading of the legal notice advertised in the *MetroWest Daily News* on March 14, 2017. Abutter notification cards were submitted.
- Mr. Weidknecht stated that they have not heard back from Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).
- The renovation plans were reviewed. Plans included cutting the wings off the edge of the bridge, placing new prefabricated concrete slabs with wings on top of the cracked concrete, and installing a railing.
- The top will be pitched slightly so water will flow over the edge.
- To catch debris and concrete slurry that might fall off the edge, they will place pieces of woods (e.g. 2 x 4s and plywood) over the Brook, along with filter fabric extending from the edge.
- The end pieces of the bridge are broken beyond repair and will be replaced.
- There is a broken clay pipe under the bridge that is/was draining water from Woodland Street and it will be removed.
- There was discussion about possible responses from NHESP.
- The concrete slabs with wings will be set in place one at a time by a fork lift.
- Ms. Briggs explains that the vegetation management plan aims to protect the integrity and structure of the bridge.
- Invasive plant species such as bittersweet, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle have taken over and are impacting numerous trees.
- The area the town mows annual is effectively reducing woody growth, but poison ivy is spreading as a ground cover.
- All vegetation within 20' of the bridge was assessed. Ms. Briggs recommends removing all trees within 15' of the bridge in addition to those that are dead and engulfed in bittersweet, and invasive tree species (Norway Maple, Tree of Heaven, Locust), for a total of 12 trees.
- Invasive shrubs and vines will be removed by cutting them back and treating the cambium with herbicide. Once the invasive plant flushes out with soft, new growth, it will be sprayed with herbicide.
- Ms. Briggs believes that due to the extent of the invasive population, it requires a hard cut back with targeted chemical approach to get the populations under control, and in subsequent years only spot herbicide application should be used, if needed.
- All disturbed soils will be seeded with a native wildflower and grass seed mix.
- The proposed herbicides were Garlon 3A (it won't affect the grasses) for the cambium application and Rodeo for any flush sprays/spot treatments. Both are approved for wetland use.
- There was discussion if the herbicides are approved for Zone II (public and private water supply area) use. Ms. Briggs will work with DEP and send them her proposal to ensure that they are safe to use in a Zone II area.
- Tree Specialists offered to donate their time for this work and possibly for future monitoring.
- The trail will be coned off during time of work and police detail will be arranged if needed.
- Mr. Weidknecht explained they will no longer be using stone dust on the bridge, it will just be the concrete, similar to a sidewalk.

- Discussed similar vegetation management plans for other town projects.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to continue the hearing for the Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-825: 8 Arch Bridge – Adjacent to 126 Woodland Street to the April 4th meeting, depending on the responses from DEP and NHESP. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).

Ms. Weissman left the meeting at 9:37 PM.

Update Tree Removal: 3 Minuteman Circle

- The email correspondence with Vijay Kommineni, the soon to be owner of 3 Minuteman Circle, was discussed. Mr. Kommineni has expressed concern over three trees near the house, but in the 50qno-disturb area.
- The Commission still requested an independent assessment of the trees as they are in a regulated no-disturb area.
- A response to Mr. Kommineni was discussed and agreed upon.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM. Mr. Lively seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0).