

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Town Hall- Room #214

October 23, 2018

7:30 PM

Present: Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair, Ann Marie Pilch (arrived 7:32), Allen Rutberg (arrived 7:32), Jennifer Buttaro, Shaw Lively, and Utah Nickel, Commissioners

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent

Absent: Christopher Badjek, Chair, Sean Fay, Associate Commissioner

Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

General Business

Public Comment

- No comments.

Review/Approve Minutes of 9/5/18 and 10/9/18

- Not enough Commission members present from these meetings to vote on the minutes. Left open until the next meeting scheduled on November 13, 2018.

Highland Street Forest – Eagle Scout Project

- Evan Spitzer of Boy Scout Troop 73 introduced himself to the Commission. He stated that his project stemmed from a Holliston Reporter article recently published about the Town Forest off of Highland Street. This project would entail the clearing out of brush, trash, and debris from the parking area, building a kiosk, and an entry sign to the Town Forest.
- Mr. Spitzer showed the Commission photos of the area in question. He noted that there was a kiosk currently set up, but was in disrepair. Part of the project would involve taking it down and replacing it with a new, updated version. He also noted that he had passed the entrance to the Town Forest multiple times trying to find it, which indicated a need for better marking of the entrance.
- Dr. Rutberg noted that he did not even know there was a parking area for this Town Forest.
- Ms. Pilch was unsure if this would be under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. She expressed that despite this being considered Open Space, it was under the ownership of the Town Forest Committee.
- Mr. Clapp noted that Joanne Hulbert from the Town Forest Committee was supposed to be at this meeting to coordinate with the Commission and Mr. Spitzer. However, she was not present to discuss this with the Commission.
- Mr. Lively asked if Mr. Spitzer had hiked the trails to confirm the trail maps. He suggested this may be a good idea for a follow-up project for another scout to clear the trails.
- Mr. Spitzer responded that he had tried to hike the trails, however, they were largely overgrown without clear marking.

- As the project stands, the Commission was unable to sign off on Mr. Spitzer's project, given that the Town Forest Committee holds jurisdiction over this parcel of land. However, the Commission expressed their support and were impressed with Mr. Spitzer's presentation.
- Mr. Lively noted that the Town Forest Committee has a meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 25. He believed that Mr. Spitzer's project was on the agenda, and suggested that Mr. Spitzer attend and meeting with the Town Forest Committee to sign off on the project.
- Mr. Spitzer agreed that he would attend.

Tree Removal Request Reconsideration: 657 Concord Street

- Mr. Clapp reported that the homeowner at 657 Concord Street would like the Commission to reconsider their decision issued on the meeting of 9/25 regarding a tree located offsite of his property.
- The Commission's earlier decision was to leave the dead tree standing. Even though the tree was dead, the wood underneath appeared structurally solid, with any damage being superficial to the bark. Additionally, the tree was far enough away from the house that should it fall, it was unlikely to damage it.
- However, the homeowner expressed concern over the cars in the driveway. While the tree may not be an imminent threat, he did not understand the need to wait until it was, especially in the case of potential property damage.
- Taking this into account, the Commission decided to allow the tree to be removed, subject to the conditions that no other trees be removed, that staff would flag the trees, that staff would be notified prior to commencement of work to ensure supervision, and that the stump be left in place.
- Mr. Clapp noted that the property abutting the homeowner was currently owned by Fafard Real Estate. Mr. Clapp will give the homeowner the contact information for Attorney Paul Beattie, who represents the company.

Land Donation Discussion: Parcel D off of Kingsbury Drive

- This discussion was continued from the previous meeting on 10/9. Mr. Clapp reported that this parcel of land was primarily a vernal pool. At the previous meeting, the Commission had suggested that may actually diminish the value of the Commission's ownership, given that a vernal pool is already a protected resource area. If it were the adjacent upland resource area, it may have more value to the Conservation Commission as an unprotected piece of land.
- Mr. Lively suggested that if the Commission were to accept this land, Mr. Petrozzi, the donee, could place signs as a condition of the Commission's acceptance. This would add an extra layer of security by marking the bounds of private property to ensure that people would be dissuaded from dumping or otherwise disturbing the vernal pool and the surrounding area.
- Mr. Clapp noted that the plan referenced showing the Parcel had little information on it, and also was cut off.
- Dr. Rutberg expressed that he believed the Commission should be interested in this plot of land with appropriate signage, but wants an actual plot and more information to be supplied by Mr. Petrozzi.

Review Correspondence

- Mr. Clapp reported that the donation of \$150,000 from MassAudubon had been received. Formal acceptance is being held off until the next meeting by the Board of Selectmen.

- Subscription renewals for *MassWildlife* were received. Many Commissioners also received their renewal forms at home.
- The latest issue of *Stormwater* magazine was circulated.
- Mr. Clapp reported that he had received an arborist report from Guerriere & Halnon, Inc., and they would like to move forward with bond release. Mr. Clapp will send out an email to the Commissioners to gauge availability for an onsite meeting.
- Dr. Rutberg reported on the meeting on deer management held by the Sherborn Conservation Commission on October 9. He noted that the presentation was informative, providing information on deer biology and management practices.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings

Request for Determination of Applicability File #D-645: #20 Hargrave Avenue (Assessors Map 10-2-8) for proposed drainage improvements via grading . *Mainsail Properties, LLC*

- Mr. Clapp reported that the applicant would not be present this evening to answer the Commission's questions and discuss his project. He has requested that the item be continued until the next meeting on November 13, 2018.

Mr. Lively made a motion to continue the public meeting for #D-645: #20 Hargrave Avenue to the next meeting on November 13th, 2018. Dr. Rutberg seconded the motion. Vote passes unanimously (6-0-0)

Mr. Lively made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Ms. Buttaro seconded the motion. Vote passes unanimously (6-0-0).

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