

**APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

Via Remote Participation

February 8, 2022

7:30 PM

Present: Christopher Bajdek, Chair; Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair; Eilish Corey, Utah Nickel  
(*arrived 7:32 PM*), Ann Marie Pilch, Allen Rutberg, Commissioners; Richard Shansky,  
Alternate Commissioner

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent

Absent:

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

**C. Bajdek 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.

R. Weissman:	Present
E. Corey:	Present
U. Nickel:	Absent ( <i>Arrived 7:32 PM</i> )
A. Pilch:	Present
A. Rutberg:	Present
R. Shansky:	Present
C. Bajdek:	Present

**General Business**

**Review/Approve Minutes of 1/25/2022**

- C. Bajdek noted clerical issues indicating that R. Shansky was present at the previous meeting, but was absent.

**A. Pilch made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/25/2022 as corrected. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye

A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Abstain
C. Bajdek:	Aye

**Vote to authorize Christopher Bajdek to sign all documents issued by the Holliston Conservation Commission on 2/8/2022**

**A. Rutberg made a motion to authorize Christopher Bajdek to sign all documents issued by the Holliston Conservation Commission on 2/8/2022. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

**Issue Order of Conditions: DEP #185-909: #599 Concord Street**

- R. Clapp presented a draft Order of Conditions to the Commission. Specific conditions included conditions related to mitigation plantings and stormwater management.

**A. Pilch made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP #185-909: #599 Concord Street. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

**Discussion: Use of dogs adjacent to Weston Pond for goose management – Mark Frank**

- Mark Frank, Director of Parks and Recreation, noted that the Holliston Parks and Recreation Department has been struggling with goose issues on the fields adjacent to Weston Pond. While reviewing the options available, he came to an outside-the-box solution in turning the adjacent two parcels into a dog park when not in use for recreation, typically morning to early afternoon depending on the youth soccer schedule.
- R. Clapp noted that of the two parcels, the one in the rear is owned by the Conservation Commission. He noted that in researching the deed, it indicated that the purpose of the land being in the ownership of the Commission was to preserve the land's natural resources and to

provide active and passive recreation. He believes M. Frank's suggestion to be consistent with that language.

- A. Rutberg inquired if the property was fenced. M. Frank noted that it is, but there is a weak point in the rear that the DPW could address temporarily with orange construction fence. A. Pilch expressed concerns about dogs chasing geese into Weston Pond through the weak point in the fence, as well as owners chasing after the dogs. M. Frank suggested the possible use of orange snow fencing to close the gap. A. Rutberg inquired if there was a way to enforce people cleaning up after their dogs. M. Frank responded that there will be trash barrels that would be regularly cleaned.
- R. Shansky inquired as to how residents will be encouraged to use the dog park. M. Frank plans to issue a press release, and noted that there is significant demand for off-lease dog parks.
- A Rutberg noted there is a risk associate with dog parks, specifically for fights and bites.
- U. Nickel noted that with the high presence of geese and their feces, a notice should be posted for dog owners regarding the risk of Salmonella.
- S. Lively, chair of the Parks Commission, noted that this will be an experimental trial and will need to be monitored for success.
- The Commission supported the idea, provided they were provided a plan clearly stating rules, hours, warnings and other relevant information.

#### **Request for Administrative Update to Plan of Record: DEP #185-883: #88 Old Cart Path**

- John Federico presented proposed plan changes to the Commission. He noted that the applicant proposes an increased encroachment of impervious surface of 221 square feet into the 100' buffer zone for this single family house, noting that this also results in the house being 8' closer to the wetlands to accommodate the buyers. He does not believe these changes to be significant, as the limit of work remains the same, and they have added a grass swale to prevent direct discharge of runoff into the wetlands. He also noted that the house has an existing armored slope that descends into the wetlands.
- A. Pilch noted that usually increased encroachments into the buffer zone require Amended Orders of Conditions. However, factoring in the grass swale and existing armored slope, she agrees that impacts are negligible. The Commission agreed with this assessment.

**R. Weissman made a motion to approve the proposed plan changes for DEP #185-883: #88 Old Cart Path as an Administrative Update to the Plan of Record. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

#### **Review Correspondence**

- R. Shansky noted that the Planning Board will be holding their second public hearing for the ADESA project on Lowland Street on 2/17/2022.
- R. Clapp noted that *Metrowest Daily News* has changed their policy on billing for legal advertisements. They will no longer charge applicants directly; applicants must either prepay or *Metrowest* will charge the Commission. R. Clapp believes the best course of action is to have *Metrowest* charge the Commission, and have the Commission hold off on closing any public hearings before the Commission receives reimbursement for the legal advertisement. The Commission agreed with this course of action.
- R. Clapp noted that registration for the MACC Spring Conference is open. Any Commissioners interested in taking any of the webinars offered should coordinate with R. Clapp.

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

**Notice of Intent for DEP #185-911: #66 Elm Street (Assessors Map 8A-3-2)** for proposed replacement septic system – *CIVILized Solutions*, representing *Kathleen O'Brien*

**Documents:** WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Septic System Construction, 66 Elm Street, Holliston” dated 12/8/2021

- Karon Skinner-Catrone noted that from the previous session of the public hearing, all that was outstanding was a file number from DEP which has since been received. She also noted that the owner was looking to sell the rental property, so any invasive species management for the multiflora rose would likely not commence under the current owner. She is willing to speak with the new owners once sold regarding options they may have. R. Clapp inquired if this should be a condition in the Order, but the Commission declined.
- E. Corey noted that the existing retaining wall is higher than 6', which requires a railing. R. Clapp will contact the Building Inspector for his opinion on the matter, but C. Bajdek noted there is no work proposed to the retaining wall, so this is likely not an issue.

**R. Weissman made a motion to close the public hearing for DEP #185-911: #66 Elm Street. A. Pilch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

- R. Clapp presented a draft Order of Conditions to the Commission.

**A. Pilch made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP #185-911: #66 Elm Street. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

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

A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

**Notice of Intent for DEP #185-910: #16 Timber Ledge Drive (Assessors Map 5-1-23K)** for proposed in-ground pool, patio, and spa – *Goddard Consulting, Inc.*, representing *Alexander & Melissa Armento*.

**Documents:** WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Proposed Pool Plan of 16 Timber Ledge Drive in Holliston, MA” dated 11/22/2021 (rev. 2/3/2022)

- Ryan Roseen presented the plan revisions to the Commission. The outstanding items the Commission required to be shown on the plan were the proposed fence surrounding the pool and the proposed paver patio, now shown.

**A. Pilch made a motion to close the public hearing for DEP #185-910: #16 Timber Ledge Drive. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

- R. Clapp will prepare an Order of Conditions for the next meeting.

**A. Pilch made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

R. Weissman:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
R. Shansky:	Aye
C. Bajdek:	Aye

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