

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Via Remote Participation

May 3, 2022

7:30 PM

Present: Christopher Bajdek, Chair; Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair; Eilish Corey, Utah Nickel
(arrived 7:35), Ann Marie Pilch, Commissioners

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent

Absent: Allen Rutberg, Commissioner; Richard Shansky, Alternate Commissioner

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 (arrived 7:35)
A. Pilch:	Present
A. Rutberg:	Absent
R. Shansky:	Absent
C. Bajdek:	Present

General Business

Review/Approve Minutes of 4/5/2022

- A. Pilch offered a revision to the discussion regarding amphibians at #243 Willow Gate Rise. Consideration should be made for migrating species that may get trapped in the swimming pool.

A. Pilch made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/5/2022 as corrected. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

A. Pilch: Aye
C. Bajdek: Aye

- C. Bajdek offered a revised statement regarding #212 Prentice Street and Article 97.
- A. Pilch noted a typo.

A. Pilch made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/19/2022 as corrected. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion does not carry.

Eagle Scout Project Completion – Liam Savage

- R. Clapp noted that he had requested the presence of L. Savage this evening. L. Savage was not present. R. Clapp will follow up with him.

Enforcement: #211 Prospect Street

- R. Clapp noted that he had received a complaint regarding earthwork at #211 Prospect Street. Upon investigation, an estimated 1000 square feet of unpermitted disturbance was observed in and near the adjacent wetland. He directed the homeowner to cease activity, contact a surveyor, and install erosion controls. Erosion controls have since been installed, and the homeowner has been in contact with GLM, who will be working with the homeowner to develop a restoration plan. The homeowner was directed to attend tonight's meeting, but was absent.

A. Pilch made a motion to issue an Enforcement Order to #211 Prospect Street, requiring attendance at the meeting on 5/17/2022 and a restoration plan by 5/31/2022. R. Weissman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Emergency Certification: Courtland Street culvert

- R. Clapp reported that Robert Walker, Deputy DPW Director, found a beaver dam off of Courtland Street that the DPW had been searching for. This dam has historically caused

significant road flooding. Over the weekend, he notched the dam to see if it would be repaired, which it was not, indicating the dam may be abandoned. He is requesting emergency approval to breach the dam.

A. Pilch made a motion to issue an Emergency Certification for the dam breaching at the Courtland Street culvert. R. Weissman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Emergency Certification: Houghton Pond Dam

- R. Clapp reported that he and R. Walker had received complaints of a higher water level from various abutters to Houghton Pond. The beaver deceiver has fallen into disrepair and is largely nonfunctional. Beaver Solutions recommends its repair and installation of a second pipe to increase flow.
- Matthew Hirsch, 31 Westfield Drive, noted a second beaver dam that is closer to his property. He believes this is also contributing to the flooding issue. His wife, Jen Hirsch, spoke to Beaver Solutions as well, and they told her a second beaver deceiver may be appropriate here.
- E. Corey noted per GIS data, the parcel where the dam is located may be owned by Joan Penney.
- R. Clapp noted that these types of requests typically come from the DPW, and as such, at this moment the Commission cannot act on it. However, he will speak to R. Walker to see about this being an item on an upcoming agenda.

A. Pilch made a motion to issue an Emergency Certification for the beaver deceiver repair and installation of a second pipe at the Houghton Pond Dam. R. Weissman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Tree Removal Request: #40 David Street

- R. Clapp reported that he and A. Pilch revisited the site. A. Pilch noted there were significantly sized white pines that were reasonably healthy, but the slope they were leaning on could pose a hazard. An additional tree near the house is in serious decline and is hazardous, and recommends the removal of the trees. An oak proposed for removal is also a potential hazard,

and recommended the removal of most of the tree, but leaving the partial trunk standing as a snag.

- The Commission agreed with this assessment and approved the removals.

Issue Order of Conditions: DEP #185-920: #92 Wingate Road

- R. Clapp reported that this Order of Conditions related to the septic system repair at #92 Wingate Road. The hearing closed on 4/19/2022. The Order reflects standard conditions imposed by the Commission for a septic system repair.

A. Pilch made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP #195-920: #92 Wingate Road. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Review Correspondence

- R. Clapp reported that he had received a letter from MassAudubon indicating they would be visiting the CRs on Mellen Street and Warren Woods during the week of May 16th. He will follow up with the Commission once he has a date from them.
- R. Clapp noted that Mary Greendale had emailed several people regarding a tree program in town, similar to a Tree City program. She will be meeting at Coffee Haven with interested parties on Friday of this week.
- R. Weissman noted that there are many municipalities making strict policies regarding trees, especially as they relate to carbon sequestration. She noted that the Commission's replanting requirement policy does not have data backing it up for the ratio of trees replanted to trees removed. R. Clapp recalled a formula mentioned in a college course he took several years ago. He will contact the professor for clarification.
- A. Pilch requested confirmation as to the Article 97 status of #212 Prentice Street. R. Clapp noted that the deed makes no mention of Article 97, so it does not have those protections. He believes the GIS data layer was incorrect.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings

Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-716: #157-165 Lowland Street (Assessors Map 9-3-16.1) for proposed construction of a 7,200 sqft building, paved area, septic system, and site improvements – *Connorstone Engineering*, representing *Master Paving Corporation and Middlesex Asphalt Services, Inc.*

Documents: WPA Form 1; Plan of Land entitled "Proposed Site Plan of 157-165 Lowland Street, Holliston, MA" dated 4/7/2022

Conservation Commission Minutes 5-3-22

Drafted for the Commission by: Ryan Clapp

Approved by the Commission: 5-17-22

Letter to Conservation Commission from Keefe Bailey, Sarah Baroud, Cherie and Pat Hafford, Sarah Hill, and Audrea and Michael Szabatura, dated 4/29/2022

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- R. Clapp noted there was an issue with the posting for this public meeting. The applicant has therefore requested a continuance to the meeting on 5/17/2022.

A. Pilch made a motion to continue the public meeting for #D-716: #157-165 Lowland Street. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Notice of Intent for DEP #185-919: #243 Willow Gate Rise (Assessors Map 9-6-55) for proposed pool and shed – *Colonial Engineering*, representing *Sean & Belinda Hanlon*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Proposed Pool & Shed Plan of Land in Holliston, MA” dated 2/22/22 (rev. 4/30/2022); Report entitled “Installation of pool and wetland habitat – 243 Willow Gate Rise, Holliston,” by Karon Skinner Catrone, dated 5/2/2022

- Paul DeSimone noted that from the previous meeting, concerns were raised regarding amphibian migration. To address the issue, the homeowner proposes a retractable pool cover, which covers the entire pool. Use of this cover precludes the need for a fence surrounding the pool, which allows species to migrate above the pool. He also noted that Karon Skinner-Catrone recommends the use of a frog-log critter escape ramp in the pool, allowing trapped amphibians to escape.
- K. Skinner-Catrone’s report also noted that the homeowners have not witnessed any amphibian migration since they have owned the home.
- A. Pilch inquired if the cover had any gaps. Belinda Hanlon noted that the cover is on a motorized track, so there are no gaps.
- C. Bajdek inquired if the cover was permitted by building code instead of a fence. B. Hanlon and R. Clapp have confirmed with the Building Inspector that it is.
- A. Pilch retained concerns regarding building so close to a vernal pool. She believes it would be appropriate to replant some of the lawn between the swimming pool and vernal pool to return it to a natural state. P. DeSimone and the applicants found the suggestion agreeable.

A. Pilch made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-919: #243 Willow Gate Rise until the next meeting on 5/17/2022. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

A. Pilch made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 PM. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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