

Holliston Conservation Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Via Remote Participation

June 27, 2023

7:30 PM

Present: Ann Marie Pilch, Chair; Allen Rutberg, Vice Chair; Eilish Corey, Utah Nickel, Rebecca Weissman, Nicole Smith, Commissioners
Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent

Absent:

Ann Marie Pilch, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

A. Pilch read the following into the record:

Pursuant to the Governor's July 16, 2022 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 as soon as possible 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.

A. Rutberg:	Present
E. Corey:	Present
U. Nickel:	Present
N. Smith:	Present
R. Weissman:	Present
A. Pilch:	Present

General Business

Interview Conservation Commission candidate: *Sneha Narayanan*

- S. Narayanan introduced herself to the Commission. She has reviewed the role of the Commission from the Town's website and familiarized herself with it at a high level. A. Pilch noted that the regulatory aspect for wetlands protection is the majority of what the Conservation Commission does.
- A. Pilch asked what skills S. Narayanan would bring to the Commission. S. Narayanan responded that she is familiar with regulatory processes and analyzing technical documents, as she works in a regulatory field. She also is familiar with working with various stakeholders and inputs from various individuals to make a decision that is in everyone's best interest. A. Pilch noted that the MACC offers training for new Commissioners.

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Drafted for the Commission by: Ryan Clapp

Approved by the Commission: 8-22-23

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- S. Narayanan asked how the Commission deals with conflicts of interest. A. Pilch noted there is ethics and conflict of interest training provided by the Town Clerk.
- **A. Rutberg made a motion to recommend S. Narayanan to the Select Board for appointment to the Conservation Commission. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

E. Corey: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
N. Smith: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
R. Weissman: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

Review/Approve Minutes of 5/2/2023, 5/16/2023, 6/6/2023, and 6/13/2023

- **N. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of 5/2/2023. R. Weissman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**
- **A. Rutberg:** Aye
- **E. Corey:** Aye
- **U. Nickel:** Aye
- **N. Smith:** Aye
- **A. Pilch:** Aye
- The minutes of 5/16/2023, 6/6/2023, and 6/13/2023 were tabled until the next meeting on 7/11/2023.

Eagle Scout Project Completion: Will Chamberlain

- W. Chamberlain reported that he had received authorization for his project in September to build a boardwalk on the Mellen Street Conservation Land. He reviewed the finished project with R. Clapp on 6/22/2023.
- The Commission thanked W. Chamberlain for his efforts in constructing this boardwalk.

Lake Winthrop Aquatic Vegetation Management: Holliston Parks & Recreation

- M. Frank presented proposed change to the Lake Winthrop aquatic vegetation management project. They currently have an approval for vegetation management using benthic barriers, which have been effective, but are costly and labor-intensive for the area being managed. They are now proposing to expand the management area and use herbicidal treatments. He has reached out to NHESP prior to this meeting, and received approval for spot treatments. S. Lively clarified that this would be targeting the nuisance species, such as water lilies.
- A. Pilch asked how the herbicide is applied. J. Onorato, Water and Wetlands, responded that they target floating leaf and emergent vegetation using either glyphosate or imazamox, along with a sticking agent. By the time the chemical gets into the water, it is only at trace concentration.
- A. Rutberg asked if the dead vegetation is removed afterwards. J. Onorato responded that the vegetation falls to the lakebed and decomposes, with the herbicides at low concentration.

- N. Smith asked if the herbicide is inert once it dries. J. Onorato confirmed that it is inert by the time it reaches the water. There is also no swimming, boating, or fishing restrictions required with this treatment. A total of one half gallon of herbicide would be used per treatment.
- U. Nickel asked if there would be any danger to wildlife consuming treated vegetation. J. Onorato responded that there is no effect to wildlife.
- E. Corey expressed concerns about creating hypoxic conditions. J. Onorato noted that they are not treating the entire lake, and the die-off is slow enough to avoid those conditions.
- M. Frank will submit a Request for an Amended Order of Conditions for this proposed work.

Holliston Greenbelt RFP

- A. Pilch reported that R. Weidknecht had developed an RFP for the establishment of connected trails throughout town, termed the Holliston Greenbelt, with the ultimate goal to being able to traverse the length of the town with only minor walking along the street. Portions would go through various public lands, as well as the potential acquisition of easements on private land. There are additional issues that need to be overcome as a part of the Greenbelt would go through land owned by MassAudubon.
- E. Corey clarified that this would be a Request for Quotes as opposed to a Request for Proposals, as this is determining the amount of funding needed for surveying. A. Pilch confirmed that this was the case, and that an RFQ is nonbinding.
- E. Corey also noted that surveyors are very busy, so there may not be many quotes that are provided. A. Pilch noted that R. Weidknecht is familiar with this issue, and has made some suggestions. R. Weidknecht recommends waiting until the fall, but getting a start on the RFQ now.

Review Correspondence

- Per previous discussions regarding the Adams Street Parking lot, E. Corey suggested that if it was regraded, that might help the erosion issues from the road. It is currently channelized, causing these issues, and if it were to sheet flow, it may help keep the parking lot stable.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings

Public Meeting – Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-739: #53 Wingate Road (Assessors Map 11-8-277) for proposed replacement septic system – *Hayes Excavation Documents*: WPA Form 1; Plan of Land entitled “On-Site Sewage Disposal System, 53 Wingate Drive, Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 4/14/2023

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- No representative for the applicant was present for this discussion.
- **U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public meeting for #D-739: #53 Wingate Road until the next meeting on 7/11/2023. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

A. Rutberg: Aye

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

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-947: #2016 Washington Street (Assessors Map 4-6-11.3) for proposed addition to commercial building – *GLM Engineering*, representing *James Read*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Proposed Site Plan Amendment, ‘Proposed Accessory Garage,’ 2016 Washington Street, Holliston, Massachusetts” revised 6/14/2023

- J. Hastings noted that after the previous meeting, she has made several revisions. She has added highbush blueberry to the list of shrubs, and added a plan detail for biodiversity. Silt sack details have been added for the catch basins as well, in addition to straw wattles around the stockpiles are. She has also revised the addition to square it off, expanding it over existing pavement. No stormwater has been changed, and roof runoff will be captured within the infiltration system.
- A. Rutberg noted there was a discussion during the previous hearing about the 70’ No Structure Zone, and there needed to be a standard for this waiver. He noted there is a large amount of parking area that could be built upon. J. Hastings noted the tree line is far from the building, and this project was in the works prior to the implementation of the Article XXXI regulations.
- N. Smith noted that while the original project was constructed under old regulations, there are new regulations that have been imposed. There is no grandfathering of old regulations for this project. J. Hastings noted that if this was an undeveloped lot, that might be true, but they are requesting a waiver as the building would have been constructed differently had the new regulations been in place. No vegetation is being removed, and all work is within the limits of previously existing work. With mitigation, an additional vegetated buffer is being provided to the wetlands.
- U. Nickel asked if a tree falling from the tree line would land on the building. J. Hastings noted the tree line is approximately 30’ away from the proposed addition, and is at a lower elevation.
- A. Pilch noted that waivers of the bylaw require a burden of proof by the applicant that there will be no negative impacts to the wetlands. She would like documentation in writing that this is an appropriate waiver for the Commission to consider. J. Hastings will provide this documentation.
- **A. Rutberg made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-947: #2016 Washington Street until the next meeting on 7/11/2023. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

A. Rutberg: Aye
 E. Corey: Aye
 U. Nickel: Aye
 N. Smith: Aye
 R. Weissman: Aye
 A. Pilch: Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-XXX: #734 Adams Street (Assessors Map 4-2-58) for proposed 7-lot open space subdivision – *GLM Engineering*, representing *Dennis & Yvonne Ferreira*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan set entitled “Definitive Open Space Subdivision, ‘Beaver Brook Farm’, A 7 Lot Single Family Residential Subdivision, Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 3/6/2023

- R. Clapp reported that the applicant had requested a continuance to the meeting on 7/11/2023.
- **A. Rutberg made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-XXX: #734 Adams Street until the next meeting on 7/11/2023. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

A. Rutberg:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
N. Smith:	Aye
R. Weissman:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-940: #99 Pilgrim Road (Assessors Map 9-4-92) for proposed in-ground pool – *Riverhawk Environmental*, representing *Fabricio De Faria*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan of Land entitled “Plan to Accompany NOI” dated 1/27/2023

- R. Clapp reported that the applicant has requested a continuance to the meeting on 7/11/2023.
- **R. Weissman made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-940: #99 Pilgrim Road until the next meeting on 6/27/2023. E. Corey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

A. Rutberg:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
N. Smith:	Aye
R. Weissman:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

Public Meeting – Request for Determination of Applicability for #D-727: #600 Central Street (Assessors Map 9-4-62) for proposed access road and battery energy storage facility – *TRC Companies*, representing *BWC Bogastow Brook, LLC*

Documents: WPA Form 1: Plan of Land entitled “Conceptual Site Layout Sketch” dated July 2022

- R. Clapp reported that the applicant has requested a continuance to the next meeting on 7/11/2023.
- **E. Corey made a motion to continue the public meeting for #D-727: #600 Central Street until next meeting on 7/11/2023. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

A. Rutberg:	Aye
E. Corey:	Aye

U. Nickel: Aye
N. Smith: Aye
R. Weissman: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP #185-928: “0” Bartzak Drive (Assessors Map 14-4-21.4) for proposed construction of a solar power generation system and associated site work – *Beals Associates*, representing *John Clifford, Bartzak PV, LLC*

Documents: WPA Form 3; Plan Set entitled “Plans to Accompany Permit Documents for Large-Scale Solar Power Generation System, 0 Bartzak Drive, Holliston, Massachusetts” dated 7/27/2022, “Tree Inventory Plan” dated 7/27/2022; letter from Beals Associates, Inc., dated 10/7/2022; Preliminary Vernal Pool Assessment, 0 Bartzak Drive, Holliston MA, from Oxbow Associates, Inc., dated 12/8/2022; Vernal Pool Assessment and Resource Area Delineation, from Beals Associates, Inc., dated 5/25/2023; 2023 Spring Vernal Pool and Resource Area Assessment, from Oxbow Associates, Inc., dated 4/24/2023

- R. Clapp reported that the applicant had requested a continuance to the next meeting on 7/11/2023.
- **U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-928: “0” Bartzak Drive until the meeting on 7/11/2023. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

A. Rutberg: Aye
E. Corey: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
N. Smith: Aye
R. Weissman: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

R. Weissman made a motion to adjourn at 9:18 PM. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

A. Rutberg: Aye
E. Corey: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
N. Smith: Aye
R. Weissman: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

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