

Holliston Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Town Hall . Meeting Room #014

March 10, 2015

7:30 PM

Present: Allen Rutberg, Chair; Ann Marie Pilch, Vice-Chair; Jim McGrath, David Schroder, Rebecca Weissman, Commissioners; Emily Kingston, Associate Commissioner

Charles Katuska, Conservation Agent
Sheri O'Brien, Conservation Assistant

Absent: Chris Bajdek, Shaw Lively, Commissioners

Allen Rutberg, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

General Business

Request for Certificate of Compliance for DEP File #185-603: 1919 Washington Street - completed septic system - Kathy Nowell

This replacement septic system has been completed for 10 years and everything is quite stable. The current owners did not install the septic system, but are now hoping to sell their home; therefore, they are requesting a Certificate of Compliance.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File #185-603: 1919 Washington Street. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0)

Sign Document - Amendment to Order of Conditions for DEP File # 185-658 - Washington Hills/ "0" Washington Street

At the last meeting on February 24, 2015, this Amendment to the Order of Conditions for DEP file # 185-658, Washington Hills, was approved by the Commission. Inadvertently, this document was not signed by the Commission, so it was signed tonight.

AP Associates Invoices for Peer Review of Hopping Brook Road Extension (x2) and Washington Hills

Two Invoices from AP Associates for Hopping Brook Road Extension in the amounts of \$1,100 and \$2,075.34 were signed by the Commission.
One Invoice from AP Associates for Washington Hills in the amount of \$1,352.50 was signed by the Commission.

Tax Title Land for Open Space Use

The Town Planner, Karen Sherman's memorandum dated March 10, 2015 regarding Tax Title Land was reviewed by the Conservation Commission. The Commission agreed to sponsoring Articles to transfer three properties from the Town (acquired through Tax Title Foreclosure) to the Conservation Commission.

Map 4 Block 6 Lot 21 . off Washington St. and south of Hopping Brook Rd. (4.17 acres)

Conservation Commission Minutes 03-10-15

Issued by: Sheri D. O'Brien

Approved by Commission: 04-07-15

Page 1 of 4

Map 1 Block 1 Lot 39 . Boynton Road (2.8 acres)
Map 8 Block 3 Lots 4 & 5 . off Howard Street (1.1 acres)

Mr. McGrath made a motion to sponsor an Article for the May 2015 Town Meeting Warrant to transfer the properties listed above (acquired by the Town through tax title foreclosure) to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0)

Warren Woods II

The Warren Woods II property located on the Ashland line between Highland Street and Meadowbrook Lane was purchased by the Town in 2014 for conservation purposes. The deed lists the Town of Holliston as the owner of the property. The Commission would like the support of the Selectmen to sponsor an article to transfer this 23 acre parcel to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission under the protection of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

The Conservation Restriction will be granted to the Mass Audubon Society and will need to be signed off by the Selectmen. The draft Conservation Restriction for Warren Woods II will be reviewed by the Commission and all comments will be forwarded to Ms. Pilch for compilation.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to sponsor an Article for the May 2015 Town Meeting Warrant to transfer the “Warren Woods II” Town property to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0)

Serocki Property

The 33 acre Serocki property on Rogers Road is now officially owned by the Town. The Commission discussed whether the care and custody of the Serocki property should run with the Conservation Commission. The property is actually two parcels of land and the Commission agreed that the care and custody of at least the ~~back~~+parcel (along Dopping Brook) should be held by the Conservation Commission.

Public Meetings & Hearings

Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP File #185-781: Hopping Brook Road Extension (Assessors Map 1, Block 1, Lot 43 and Map 4 , Block 6, Lots 15.1, 18, 32, 32.3, 33, and 52) proposed extension of the existing commercial roadway . *Brian Butler/Oxbow Associates, Inc.* representing *Jon Deli-Priscolli/New Hopping Brook Trust*

Ms. Weissman and Mr. McGrath submitted affidavits regarding their review of the public hearing evidence for the hearing on February 24, 2015.

Brian Butler (Oxbow) and Arthur Borden (Engineer, Borden Associates) were present. Barbara Thissell, Peer Review Consultant from AP Associates, was also present.

In response to the comments regarding the stormwater management in AP Associatesq (Barbara Thissell) letter dated March 9, 2015, Mr. Butler presented revised plans dated

Conservation Commission Minutes 03-10-15

Issued by: Sheri D. O'Brien

Approved by Commission: 04-07-15

Page 2 of 4

February 27, 2015. Mr. Borden also submitted a Post-Development Phase Best Management Practices Operation and Maintenance Plan/Long-Term Pollution Prevention Plan - Rev. 3/10/15.+

The easterly culvert did not meet the openness standards of the MA River and Stream Crossing Standards, so the size of the culvert was increased in order to comply with the standards. The westerly culvert met the standards, so the size was kept the same.

Mr. Butler explained the make-up of the drainage channels that will flow through the eastern and western culverts located at the end of the existing section of Hopping Brook Road. The Commission was concerned about preserving the integrity of the eastern channel where the eastern culvert will be placed. If the applicant would like to preserve the option to build year round (during wet or dry seasons), the Commission asked for a construction period plan of how the stream channel will be preserved for the eastern culvert. Driving back and forth through the stream channel will not be allowed. The Commission was not comfortable with Mr. Butler's suggestion to use a PVC or flex pipe to bypass the eastern stream channel. The primary goal is to keep the integrity of the eastern stream channel intact. The western stream channel adjacent to the gas line is of lesser concern.

Parts of the retaining walls that are along the road at the wetland crossing are as much as 10' high, with one being 200' long and the other 300' long. The maintenance of these walls will become the responsibility of the Highway Department; therefore, the Commission would like to ensure that the Highway Department is comfortable with the future maintenance of these retaining walls. It seems that this concern is probably something that is typically addressed by the Planning Board; however, Tom Smith will be consulted by the Agent.

The comments regarding the stormwater in AP Associates' (Barbara Thissell) letter dated March 9, 2015 were reviewed by Mr. Borden.

There was discussion surrounding the Groundwater Elevation for Detention Basin #1. Ms. Thissell felt that groundwater borings should be done in the actual detention basin #1 to ensure that the water table isn't so high that it affects the detention basin. Mr. Borden and Mr. Butler will review the recommendation to do a soil mottling test to determine the high groundwater level with their client.

To summarize, the following items should be addressed by the applicant:

- 1) A cross-section+detail of the eastern culvert (looking through the end of the culvert) should be provided to document preservation of the existing stream channel.
- 2) A construction period sequence plan to preserve the eastern stream channel for the eastern culvert should be provided. This will preserve the ability to construct year-round.
- 3) The high groundwater elevation at the bottom of Detention Basin #1 should be determined by soil mottling.

Also, the Agent will consult with the Highway Department regarding the ability to maintain the retaining walls in the area of the culvert crossings once this project is complete.

The hearing will be continued to March 24, 2015 in order to give the applicant time to respond to the remaining comments from AP Associates.

Mr. Schroder made a motion to continue the hearing for DEP File #185-781: Hopping Brook Road Extension to March 24, 2015. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0)

General Business Continued

Ms. Weissman left the meeting at 8:50 PM.

FY16 Budget Review

Three proposed draft FY16 budgets (dated 3/10/15) were reviewed with the Commission. The Commission agreed to the Requested FY16 Budget as presented by Mr. Katuska. The Agent will present this proposed budget to the Selectmen tomorrow evening for their review.

Mr. McGrath made a motion to accept the Requested FY16 Budget of \$48,837 with an additional \$100 for office supplies. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)

Staff Evaluation

Mr. McGrath, Ms. Pilch, and Ms. O'Brien submitted their Performance Evaluations of the Agent, Mr. Katuska, to Chairman Rutberg for compilation. The compilation will be submitted to the Town Administrator within the next couple of weeks.

Vote on Meeting Minutes from 12/9/14, 12/23/14, 1/6/15, 2/10/15 & 2/24/15

Mr. McGrath made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 9, 2014. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)

Mr. McGrath made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 23, 2014. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Dr. Rutberg abstained. The motion passed. (3-0-1)

Voting on the draft minutes from January 6, February 10, and February 24, 2015 was tabled in order to allow the Commissioners more time to review them.

Review Mail

The mail was reviewed.

At 9:18 PM, Ms. Pilch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schroder seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.