

Holliston Conservation Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Town Hall . Meeting Room #014

August 6, 2013

7:30 PM

Present: Ann Marie Pilch, Vice-Chair; Chris Bajdek, Jim McGrath, Rebecca Weissman, Commissioners

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

Absent: Allen Rutberg, Chair; Shaw Lively, Commissioner

Ann Marie Pilch, Acting Chair, opened the meeting at 7:34 PM.

General Discussion

Potential Eagle Scout Project at Weston Pond – Nathaniel Bagge

Master Bagge is working with the Park and Rec Dept. to repair a bridge and clear trails on an island north of the soccer fields at Weston Pond. He would also like to clear up the overgrown trails and cut back some large tree limbs and a broken tree with the Commission's permission. The Commission would like the cut limbs and trees left on the island to create wildlife habitat. They asked him to move the portions of limbs and trees off the trail. Master Bagge inquired about putting mulch on the entrance of the trail; however, the trail goes over a gas easement and it needs to be determined this mulch would be on the gas easement or not.

Potential Land Donation and Current Conservation Restriction – Map 4, Block 4, Lot 323.1 (Johnson Drive & Washington Street), E. Raduano, Trustee

Elaine Raduano would like to donate this 2 acre parcel of land to the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission already holds a Conservation Restriction for this property. The Commission agreed that they were not interested in owning the property in fee at this time.

Beaver Solutions Pond Leveler Estimates for Weston Pond/Paul Road

At the last meeting on July 23, 2013, the Commission reviewed the two estimates for pond levelers at the Weston Pond Dam Spillway and the beaver dam at Paul Road. The Weston Pond spillway protective fence and pipe system was quoted at \$2,584 and the Paul Road pond leveler and exclusion fence were quoted at \$1,734.

The leveler project at Paul Road might be on Army Corps land; therefore, the Agent is waiting to receive more information from the Real Estate division of the ACOE regarding the permits they would require. The ACOE Permitting Division supports the leveler in theory and informed the Agent that no Federal permitting should be required since no fill will be added to the flood plain area. A ConCom permit (most likely a Determination of Applicability) would be necessary for Beaver Solutions to install a pond leveler at Paul Road.

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The Weston Pond leveler system is on town land. Karen Fung (Dam Safety Officer for Holliston) has contacted the Office of Dam Safety at DCR to determine if a permit is necessary to put a water level control structure in a dam. It was discussed as to whether the Conservation Fund is the only fund that can be used for the pond levelers, since the Conservation Fund's main intent is to be used for land purchases. The pond levelers will help protect the wetlands; however, it will also keep Route 16 from flooding while protecting the dam spillway at the same time. The Bylaw and WPA State Funds cannot be used for the pond levelers, because those funds are only available for activities that support regulatory programs.

Public Meetings & Hearings

Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-760: Lot 3.2A Old Cart Path - identified as Holliston Assessors Map 14, Block 5, Lot 3.2 (portion A), proposed construction of a single-family house and the associated grading and site work, *Peter Lavoie/Guerriere and Halnon, Inc.* representing *Constitution Village LLC*

A letter has not been received back from Natural Heritage (NHESP); therefore, the hearing cannot be closed. Mr. Lavoie made a written request to continue this hearing until August 20, 2013.

Mr. Bajdek made a motion to continue the hearing for DEP File #185-760, Lot 3.2A Old Cart Path to August 20, 2013. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)

Continued Public Hearing – Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-762: Lot 3.2C Old Cart Path - identified as Holliston Assessors Map 14, Block 5, Lot 3.2 (portion C), proposed construction of a single-family house and the associated grading and site work, *Peter Lavoie/Guerriere and Halnon, Inc.* representing *Constitution Village LLC*

A letter has not been received back from Natural Heritage (NHESP); therefore, the hearing cannot be closed. Mr. Lavoie made a written request to continue this hearing until August 20, 2013.

Mr. McGrath visited the site since the last meeting and didn't find the sign that Mr. Lavoie agreed to hang at the last meeting.

Mr. Bajdek made a motion to continue the hearing for DEP File #185-762, Lot 3.2C Old Cart Path to August 20, 2013. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)

General Discussion Continued

Holliston Conservation Administrative Bylaw

The current bylaw was discussed. The Commission agreed that a simpler bylaw would be prudent. The Agent will draft a new bylaw for the Commission to review.

Vote on Approval and Issuance of Order of Conditions for DEP File # 185-761: Lot 3.2B Old Cart Path, Peter Lavoie/Guerriere and Halnon, Inc. representing Constitution Village LLC

The Commission closed this hearing at the last meeting on July 23, 2013 with the conditions that the following be modified: 1) move the septic system out of the 100qbuffer zone as much as possible, and 2) add the test pit locations to the plan.

Mr. McGrath made a motion to approve and issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #185-761: Lot 3.2B Old Cart Path. Mr. Bajdek seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)

Review Mail

The mail was reviewed.

Weston Pond Boardwalk off of Courtland Street

The Agent shared information regarding helical piles (which are like giant screws) to support the boardwalk, which would be helpful in Weston Pond so that the boardwalk is not destroyed when the pond freezes.

89 Arch Street – Sink Holes in Driveway

The Agent visited the Raney residence today to examine the sink holes that have occurred in their driveway. Laura Raney believes that the sink holes were created by beavers building dens in the bank of the Winthrop Canal (which is 25qfrom the driveway) so that the dens extend under their driveway. The Highway Department put gravel into the sink holes twice, but will not be doing so anymore. The Agent said that he cannot be sure that the sink holes have been created by beaver dens without paddling down the canal to look at the bank.

Vote on Draft ConCom Meeting Minutes from 7/23/13

Mr. Bajdek made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 23, 2013 with the incorporation of the Commission's comments. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. The motion passed. (4-0-0)

Potential Eagle Scout Projects

Potential Eagle Scout projects were discussed for the Conservation Land in Holliston.

At 9:05 PM, Mr. McGrath made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Unanimous. (4-0-0)