

## Holliston Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Town Hall- Meeting Room #014

July 11, 2017

7:30 PM

Present: Chris Bajdek, Chair; Rebecca Weissman, Vice Chair; Blake M. Mensing, Ann Marie Pilch, Allen Rutberg, Commissioners; Utah Nickel, Associate Commissioner  
Sheri O'Brien, Conservation Agent; Kristin O'Brien, Conservation Assistant  
Absent: Jennifer Buttaro, Shaw Lively, Commissioners

**Chris Bajdek, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.**

### General Business

#### Potential Violation at 86 Winchester Drive

- George and Joan Gabriel were present.
- Ms. K. O'Brien explained a complaint that was filed. A neighbor reported Mr. Gabriel was apply chemicals, leaf blowing, and using ATVs close to a vernal pool. From the neighbor's yard it appears there are at least two vernal pools.
- Mr. Gabriel explained he has been spraying for ticks on the trail that leads to a neighbor's house. He is also blowing leaves off the trail to minimize ticks in the area where his children play. The ATVs are generally stored at their vacation home in Maine and are here for the winter. When used on the property they stay on one of two trails.
- There was discussion about the status of the vernal pools and what type of chemicals are being used for the ticks.
- Mr. Gabriel gave permission for the Commission to come to the property to assess the vernal pools and he will submit the name of the tick spray he has been using. He also agreed to tell any who use the ATV to stay on the designated path.

#### Tree Removal Request at 5 Great Meadow Road

- Ms. K. O'Brien explained that the owner would like to remove 5 large Tree of Heavens that are at the edge of a bank. The invasive tree has been spreading. The owner spoke with a tree removal company who would use a crane to cut the tree and lift the top part out and leave the stumps in place.
- The Commission agreed and also recommended the stumps be painted with herbicide not sprayed. This practice can continue until the invasive species is controlled.
- The Commission asked that two red maples (*Acer rubrum*) be planted.

#### Discussion: 270 Central Street Well Installation

- Ms. Weissman visited the property and found the proposed well location is approximately 100q from a wetland. She stated the well installation would be far enough away from the wetland and there is no need for a permit application.

#### Request for Minor Modification for the Order of Conditions for 675 Concord Street DEP File #185-816- Robert Poxon, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

- Ms. S. O'Brien explained that the original plan did not include a basement, and the new proposed basement will alter the grading. After further review of the plan, the limit of work was pushed closer to the wetlands by 8 to 20q depending on location.
- The lot had an old house that was demolished which allowed for the new construction to be within the 50qbuffer zone.
- After discussion the Commission agreed this should be a Request for an Amended Order of Conditions not a Minor Modification. They would also like to know how much the limit of work area increased.

### **Emergency Certificate Request for 89 Cross Street**

- The Fire Suppression building has extremely high water due to the beaver dam downstream. This has been an ongoing issues in previous years and the beavers were trapped before the dam was breached.
- The applicant has requested an Emergency Permit from Board of Health to breach the dam and trap the beavers, and is requesting an Emergency Certificate from the Commission to breach the dam.

**Ms. Weissman made a motion to issue an Emergency Certificate to breach the beaver dam near 89 Cross Street beginning Monday July 17, 2017. Ms. Pilch seconded. Unanimous. (5-0-0)**

### **Vote on 5/16/17 Draft Meeting Minutes**

- Due to a clerical requirement the 05/16/17 minutes must be re-approved.

**Ms. Pilch made a motion to accept the 05/16/17 minutes. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Mr. Mensing abstained. The motion passed. (4-0-1).**

### **Discussion: Highlands at Holliston Conservation Restriction**

- Ms. S. O'Brien explained that the open space areas of the development have been improperly used in several ways, including extensive intrusion of construction vehicle traffic and grading from septic systems. The original value of the land has been degraded. The Commission discussed whether it should hold the CR.
- After discussion, the Commission agreed that they do not want to hold the CR for Highlands at Holliston, because it does not hold its original natural open space value.

**Dr. Rutberg made a motion for the Commission to reject holding the Conservation Restriction for Highlands at Holliston. Mr. Mensing seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).**

### **245 Washington Street- 40B Waiver Requests**

- Ms. K. O'Brien explained the comments she recommended be submitted to the ZBA for the Comprehensive Permit.
- The Commission agreed to include several of the standard conditions from an Order of Conditions (e.g. restricted fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide use, stormwater report peer review), as well as, mitigation plantings, a required letter to all homeowners in the 100qbuffer zone, and no fence or sheds in the 100qbuffer zone without Commission approval.

### **Review Correspondence**

- The Middlesex Conservation District Fall Bulb and Perennial Catalog was discussed.
- The Commission approved and signed the MACC Membership Renewal Invoice.

### **Review draft of Local Wetlands Protection Regulations**

- The Commission reviewed and discussed the current draft.
- Staff will compile the edits and questions to be sent to Charles Katuska for revision.

**Ms. Weissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 PM. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Unanimous. (5-0-0).**