

Holliston Conservation Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Town Hall – Meeting Room #014

March 12, 2013
7:30 PM

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

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

Absent: Shaw Lively, Commissioner

Allen Rutberg opened the meeting at 7:32 PM.

General Business

Proposed Boardwalk on Nature Trail behind Miller School – Marc Connelly/Holliston Conservation Associates

Mr. Connelly presented plans for a proposed 140' long boardwalk for the Rees Nature Trail behind the Miller Intermediate Elementary School. The trail is still being used even though much of it is flooded by beavers. *Mr. Maccagnano arrived at 7:34 PM.*

There are three species of cranberries that are native to Holliston in the bog that can be seen from the trail where the boardwalk will be located. The boardwalk will help meet several of the goals for the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Deep footings will be at the beginning, middle, and end with floating concrete leveling pads in between. The "rub rail" height will be increased to be 4 inches so that it will meet Massachusetts Architectural Access rules and requirements for persons with disabilities. A Request for Determination of Applicability will be filed for the boardwalk with the assistance of the Conservation Commission.

Tree Removal at Dams

All of the trees have been removed at Houghton's Pond dam and the Highway Dept has started to clear the trees at the Linden Pond dam.

Emergency Certification: Beaver Dams – Hopping Brook

It does not appear that ACOE or MA-DOT feel that an Emergency Certificate is necessary at this time. A letter will be sent to the private land owner of the 3 culverts that are blocked by the beavers (New Hopping Brook Realty Trust) explaining that the culverts need to be cleared and be maintained on a regular basis.

Highlands at Holliston Conservation Restrictions – Don Seaberg, Benchmark Engineering

Phase I – There are 3 parcels of land included in this Phase I CR.

The CR has been reformatted into a regular Word document. It will be reviewed by staff and forwarded to the Commission for their next review.

Vote on Approval & Issuance of Orders of Conditions for DEP File Nos. 185-744, 185-745, and 185-746: Lots 3.4A, 3.4B, 3.4C Old Cart Path, respectively, Peter Lavoie/Guerriere and Halnon, Inc./ Constitution Village, LLC

Special Conditions regarding the rip rap slope and the limit of work were added.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve and issue the Orders of Conditions for DEP Files #185-744, 185-745, and 185-746 - Lots 3.4A, 3.4B, and 3.4C, respectively, Old Cart Path with the Special Conditions discussed. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Ms. Weissman abstained. The motion passed. (5-0-1)

Public Meetings & Hearings

Continued Public Hearing - Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-741: Indian Trail Estates Subdivision, identified as portions of Holliston Assessors Map 14, Block, Lots 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6, proposed construction of a stormwater detention basin and the grading for the roadway in a 5 lot subdivision, Robert Poxon/Guerriere and Halnon, Inc. representing 126 Residential ANR Realty

Mr. Poxon was present. He agreed to have the hearing continued to March 27, 2013.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to continue the hearing for DEP File # 185-741: Indian Trail Estates Subdivision to March 27, 2013. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (6-0-0)

Continued Public Hearing - Notice of Intent for DEP File # 185-747: NSTAR Property, Fiske & Marilyn Streets, identified as Holliston Assessors Map 9, Block 2, Lot 60.1), installation of temporary mobile sub-station, proposed grading and site work associated with electric utility interconnection and the existing access road, Jessica Roberts/Tighe and Bond, Inc. representing NSTAR Electric Co.

As an abutter, Mr. McGrath recused himself from this hearing.

Ms. Weissman submitted an affidavit that she reviewed the public hearing evidence from the public hearing session that she missed on February 26, 2013. Jessica Roberts (Tighe and Bond) and Michael Zylich (NStar) were present. Ms. Roberts' comments regarding the Order of Conditions from today's e-mail were reviewed. Full size plans will be provided with spot elevations.

Fill material above the existing access road profile elevations, where it occurs within the limits of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, shall be removed to the existing access road profile elevations following installation of the temporary mobile transformer/substation equipment. Decommissioning of the facility and restoration of the site would require that NStar come back to the Commission with a new Notice of Intent. NStar explained that Natural Heritage also requires them to restore the site. A Certificate of Compliance will be requested within 90 days following completion of the project (energizing of the mobile transformer substation). An As-Built plan will be submitted that shows that the access roadway has been restored to the existing road profile. A condition will be added to require that an approval letter be received from Natural Heritage before construction begins.

Ms. Pilch made a motion to close the hearing for DEP File #185-747, NStar Property, Fiske & Marilyn Streets. Ms. Weissman seconded the motion. Mr. McGrath recused himself, and therefore, did not vote. The motion passed. (5-0-0)

Mr. Bajdek made a motion to approve and issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #185-747, NStar Property, Fiske & Marilyn Streets, as revised during the meeting. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Mr. McGrath recused himself, and therefore, did not vote. The motion passed. (5-0-0)

General Business Continued

Vote on ConCom Regular Meeting Minutes from 1/29/13, 2/12/13 & 2/26/13

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the January 29, 2013 meeting minutes with Commissioners' comments incorporated. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (6-0-0)

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the February 12, 2013 meeting minutes with Commissioners' comments incorporated. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (6-0-0)

Mr. McGrath made a motion to approve the February 26, 2013 meeting minutes. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion with Commissioners' comments incorporated. Ms. Weissman abstained. The motion passed. (5-0-1)

Vote on ConCom Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 1/29/13

Ms. Pilch made a motion to approve the January 29, 2013 Executive Session meeting minutes with Commissioners' comments incorporated. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Unanimous. (6-0-0)

Automatic Extension via the Permit Extension Act for Order of Conditions: DEP File #185-702, Lot A, Adjacent to 667 Highland Street, Daniel Rutowicz

The Extension Permit for Orders of Conditions for DEP File #185-702 was signed by the Commission.

Review Mail

IRS Paperwork was signed for the donation of the Rosenfeld Parcel.

APPROVED Conservation Commission Minutes 03-12-13

Issued by: Sheri D. O'Brien

Approved by Commission: 03-27-13

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Additional Hours for Agent

The Commission agreed to pay for approximately an extra 8 hours for the Agent from the Bylaw Fund.

FY14 ConCom Budget – April 4, 2013 FinCom Meeting

The FinCom meeting was postponed due to the snowstorm on March 7th. The budget will be presented to the FinCom on April 4, 2013.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The OSRP is being updated by the Town Planner, Karen Sherman. Commissioners are welcome to review the draft OSRP.

At 9:06 PM, Mr. Maccagnano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pilch seconded the motion. Unanimous. (6-0-0)

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be WEDNESDAY, March 27, 2013.