

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 16, 2017
APPROVED: APRIL 20, 2017**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:06pm in the Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road, under MGL Chapter 131 §40 The Wetland Protection Act and The Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 the Wetland Protection Bylaw

Members Present: Paul Willard, Charlie Gorss, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Jaye Waldron and Jim Burns (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Peter Dorward and Jim Lee

Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application Next Steps

Liz Allard stated the final grant application was delivered last week by Jim Lee. Mr. Lee stated he had a brief discussion with the property owner's son and realtor after the March 3rd presentation, at which they stated there would be no interested in selling the parcel for the amount that was presented that evening. The realtor has requested the appraisal be shared with them; however Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) is not interested in sharing the appraisal at this time. Mr. Lee suggested the Conservation Commission (ConCom) have a discussion with the realtor and a member of the Davis family to discuss a selling price. Paul Willard suggested at this meeting the appraisal could be shared with, but not given to, the realtor. Jim Breslauer expressed if HCT paid for the appraisal then the ConCom should take their advice on whether or not to share it with the realtor. Mr. Willard stated he would be in touch with the realtor to arrange the meeting.

Next steps in the process of securing funds as detailed in the grant application were discussed. All agreed to start the dialog with the Capital Planning and Investments Committee (CPIC) right after town meeting is the next step, with Community Preservation Committee shortly there after. Mr. Willard was willing to arrange meeting with CPIC, but cannot take on spearheading the entire project himself.

Review & Approve Letter to Finance Committee

Jim Breslauer had previously circulated a letter to the Finance Committee in regards to the request of four additional hours to be added to the incoming Board of Health Administrative Assistant to assist the Land Use Boards Administrator. After a minor revision to the letter, Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the letter to the Finance Committee. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Proposed Harvard Snowmobile Protocol

The draft protocol is still under development and will be discussed at an upcoming Land Stewardship Subcommittee meeting.

Licensing of Conservation Land Update

With Joanne Ward out this evening this item was tabled until the April 6th meeting.

Discuss Interest in Purchasing Smith Land – Littleton County Road (Map 14 Parcel 56)

Wendy Sisson has spoken with the representative at Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), who has explained the existing conservation restriction (CR) is being amended to allow for the creation of house lots on the land in Littleton. Littleton Conservation Trust will still hold the CR for land in both Harvard and Littleton. SVT is seeking to have the required approvals ready for a fall town meeting. A parking area on Whitcomb Road in Littleton will be created as part of the creation of the house lots. There is still plenty of time for Harvard to determine if there is interest in purchasing the 12 acres of land in Harvard, at approximately \$3000/acre; the land has a CR currently.

Ms. Sisson explained the land would be a welcome addition for access to the Black Pond area; however the current CR does not allow for public access, but can be amended. Ms. Sisson will gather additional information on the matter and report back to the Commission.

Update on Gifts of Land

- Stone Cutter's Path – The final deed has been signed by the proper individuals from the Shaker Quarry homeowners association and now needs approval and signatures of the Commission. Jaye Waldron made a motion to accept the deed as drafted by Attorney Lanza for the 7.5 acres of land off of Stone Cutter's Path and known as Shaker Quarry. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.
- Still River Road – Harvard Conservation Trust is working out the details to accept the land from the Trustees of the property. This item will be removed from the agenda
- Maxant, Willard Lane – Nothing new to report

Strategy for Warrant Article #18 Conservation Fund for Annual Town Meeting

Jim Breslauer suggested the Commission retract the vote taken at the February 16th meeting to request additional funding on the floor at town meeting for the conservation fund. Members present agreed. The following motion was made by Jim Breslauer, seconded by Wendy Sisson and unanimously agreed upon, to retract the Commission's vote of February 16th to request additional \$30,000 in funding at annual town meeting for the conservation fund.

Jim Breslauer agreed to present the article at annual town meeting on April 1st.

Conservation Land Encroachment – Sisters Land, Still River Road

After a brief discussion of resolving the potential encroachment on the Sister's Land along Still River Road, Liz Allard was tasked with searching the archived records for a plan of the property in question to determine if the property boundaries are shown and can be located on the ground easily.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation

Liz Allard distributed the 7-Year Action Plan from the 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan. There are a number of items to be completed in 2017. The members will review the document and discuss further at the next meeting.

Jim Breslauer left the meeting at 8:38pm

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners Annual Environmental Conference Round-up

Wendy Sisson attended a workshop on Assessing Deer Impacts at a Town Level, which detailed the need to survey understory vegetation of the local forest. Ms. Sisson will be working with others to complete this task on conservation lands.

Liz Allard distributed her notes from the three workshops she attended, along with handouts.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update

Wendy Sisson stated the spring walk has been moved to April 9th and will focus on vernal pools.

In light of recent discussions on controlling deer populations, Ms. Sisson suggest the Commission review the town bylaws, regulations, conservation restrictions and deeds to start thinking of the idea of hunting on conservation land. Working in conjunction with the Board of Health (BOH) on the matters of deer management and tick populations will be essential as well. Liz Allard was asked to invite BOH to the April 6th meeting to begin the dialog in regards to these matters.

Ms. Sisson made a motion to allocate \$200 for amphibian crossing signs to be placed in various locations around town during the migration to vernal pools for breeding. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Minutes

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2017 as amended. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Invoice

Liz Allard stated the following invoice has been received for inclusion on the next bill warrant:

- Mark J. Lanza, \$221.00

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the invoice for Mark J. Lanza in the amount of \$221.00. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Allocation of funds for MACC Fundamentals for Conservation Commissions

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the allocation of \$55.00 for a webinar offered by MACC for Jaye Waldron. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Request to repair Harris Lane

Liz Allard had previously circulated a letter in regards to roadway repairs to Harris Lane within the 100' wetland buffer zone. Wendy Sisson made a motion to accept the letter as drafted. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request to support People's Climate March in Washington D.C.

Liz Allard previously distributed a request from Jacob Llodra, a senior at Groton-Dunstable Regional High School, who requested the Commission's assistance in spreading the message about a trip he is coordinating to the People's Climate March on April 29th in Washington, D.C. Members were amenable with this information being provided on the Conservation page of the Town website.

Adjournment

Jaye Waldron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent

EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

Conservation Commission Agenda, dated March 16, 2017

Review & Approve Letter to Finance Committee

- Letter to Don Ludwig, Finance Committee Chair, dated March xx, 2017

Update on Gifts of Land - Stone Cutter's Path

- Massachusetts Quitclaim Deed, Shakers' Quarry Property Owners Association, Inc and the Town of Harvard, undated

Conservation Land Encroachment – Sisters Land, Still River Road

- Email from: Wendy Sisson, to: Liz Allard, Subject: Fwd:encroachment?, dated February 9, 2017

Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation

- 2016 Open Space & Recreation Plan Section 9 7-year Action Plan

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners Annual Environmental Conference Round-up

- 2017 MACC Annual Environmental Conference Notes, L. Allard, dated March 4, 2017
- A Quick Guide to Land Use in Massachusetts, Mass Audubon, undated
- Session 1: 'Nuts & Bolts' of the New Public Records Law, undated
- Meetings and Minutes Guide for Boards, Commissions and Committees, "Including Executive Session Quick Index Motions Guide"

Approve Minutes

- Draft February 16, 2017 minutes with amendments by Jim Breslauer

Approve Invoice

- Mark J. Lanza invoice, dated 2/28/2017

Approve Request to repair Harris Lane

- Letter to Harris Lane Homeowner Association, re: repairs to Harris Lane, dated March 16, 2017
- Harris Lane Map, CAI Technologies, dated 3/12/2017

Request to support People's Climate March in Washington D.C.

- Email from: Jacob.llodra@gmail.com, to: Liz Allard, Subject: [Town of Harvard MA] Group Bus Trip to the People's Climate March (Sent by Jacob), dated March 12, 2017