

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 6, 2017  
APPROVED: APRIL 20, 2017**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm 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, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron and Joanne Ward

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Peter Cricones, Jason Cole, Sharon McCarthy (BOH), Tom Philippou (BOH), Libby Levison (BOH), Sherlie LaPierre, Bob LaPierre, Barbara Campbell, William Campbell, Carla Page, Sally Carrona, Warren Henderson and Weidong Li

**Review Order of Conditions, DEP#177-586, with new owner of Pine Hill Village, Stow Road**

Peter Cricones, the new owner of the Pine Hill Village development on Stow Road, was present to discuss the Order of Conditions with the Commission. Mr. Cricones has briefly reviewed the existing permits for the property; he had specific questions about the clearing and phasing of the project. The Commission explained the site has a history of high water, which makes development difficult under normal circumstances. As a Chapter 40B development the typical protocols of the Commission are not in place, such as setbacks for structures; therefore the project will require a significant amount of monitoring and cooperation from Mr. Cricones to ensure there are no adverse impacts to the wetlands and the surrounding neighborhood.

Phasing the project is detailed on the plans, but will require a written sequence to be approved by the Commission as detailed under number 6 of the Pre-Activity Conditions, of the Pine Hill 40B – Special Conditions.

Final site plans still require approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) prior to the start of site work. The ZBA will require the site be routinely monitored by Nitsch Engineering for compliance with the Comprehensive Permit. Previous submittals of permits, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, need to be updated with the correct contact information.

Bob LaPierre, an abutter, had questions about the maintenance of the retention pond and the home owner association (HOA) fees. Mr. Cricones stated the maintenance will be incorporated into the condo documents and will be maintained by the management company hired by the HOA. Mr. Cricones stated he would guess the HOA fees would be around \$250- \$300/month.

It was explained to Mr. Cricones that the neighborhood has been very much involved in the development of this property, as it and the surrounding area is subject to flooding. Water coming off the site is a major concern for the neighborhood.

Mr. Cricones hopes to begin site work this June, with initial units being move-in ready by May of 2018. There are still a number of steps to be taken before activity can begin on site, from not only a Conservation perspective, but from Zoning and Building Code as well.

**Meet with Board of Health & Jason Cole to discuss Deer Management**

Jason Cole and the members of the Board of Health (BOH) were present to discuss deer management in Harvard. Mr. Cole is interested in helping out in any way he can. Mr. Cole reviewed recent studies of tick and deer density in Groton, Connecticut. Mr. Cole stated culling, which is the process of segregating organisms from a group according to desired or undesired characteristics, is a good solution to reduce deer populations in Harvard.

Wendy Sisson stated Mass Wildlife is encouraging hunting across the State to control deer populations. Ms. Sisson stated educating the public on the life-cycles of ticks and how to protect themselves and pets from ticks, including creating safe zones on their properties is just as important as controlling deer populations. The Conservation Commission (ConCom) has taken action by reducing Japanese barberry on conservation land through the invasive plant management program. In addition, the Commission has begun discussing allowing bow hunting on conservation land to assist in controlling deer populations.

A recent workshop attended by Ms. Sisson details the need to conduct browse surveys on conservation land to assess habitat impacts by deer; Ms. Sisson is starting the process of training volunteers on this type of survey.

After a long discussion, the ConCom & BOH agreed deer management is a function of the ConCom and matters related to ticks and prevention of the diseases they transmit are a function of the BOH.

A discussion of the use of synthetic pesticides lead Wendy Sisson to make the following motion, the Harvard Conservation Commission does not recommend the use of synthetic pesticide sprays for the control of mosquitoes and ticks within the Town of Harvard. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

The following co-sponsored (ConCom & BOH) activities were agreed upon to educate the public:

- Prepare a one page hand-out
- Tick Talk by Dr. Katie Brown, State Public Health Veterinarian, on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Bromfield library
- Informational table at the Apple Blossom Festival and Garden Club plant sale in May

#### **Comments to the Draft Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Priority Habitat Map**

Liz Allard will further review the draft map for any changes from the previous map for discussion at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Press Release re: Interstate Gas Pipeline**

Wendy Sisson reached out to Eric Broadbent of the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee for a local quote to be included with the press release. Members agreed to the language sent by Mr. Broadbent. Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the submittal of the press release urging Governor Baker not support the interstate pipeline. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **Approve Minutes**

This item was passed over

#### **Approve Invoices**

Liz Allard stated the following invoices have been received for inclusion on the next bill warrant:

- Word Press - \$36.00
- J&S Business Products - \$149.30

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the above-mentioned invoices. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Funding**

Liz Allard stated a site walk is scheduled with a representative from the State on Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Paul Willard and Joanne Ward stated they would attend if their schedules allow.

Paul Willard spoke with Deb Ricci, the chair of the Capital Planning and Investment Committee (CPIC) in regards to funding for the purchase of the Davis land. Ms. Ricci requested a letter be sent to CPIC briefly detailing the project and the proposed funding for the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. A letter was sent this afternoon to Ms. Ricci in that regard.

**Proposed Harvard Snowmobile Protocol**

The draft protocol is still under development.

**Licensing of Conservation Land Update**

Joanne Ward stated she is still working on the spreadsheet that will detail the history of fees collected for the licensing of conservation land.

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

Nothing new to report on this item

**Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation**

This item was passed over

**Conservation Land Encroachment – Sisters Land, Still River Road**

Liz Allard stated a previous application from the land in question included a plan that details the location of the iron pin in the northeast corner of the property. Members agreed that since they are not certain there is an actual encroachment that a certified letter should be sent to the property owner requesting the boundary be marked. If they are unable to locate the markers themselves they can come to the office to review the plan on file.

**Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Update**

Liz Allard stated she has determined the grant can not be used to develop a method for prioritizing land for open space preservation here in town. The Planning Board is submitting an application for a financial analysis for the impacts of an open space design bylaw. Support of this application from the Commission would be appreciated.

**Update on Gifts of Land**

- Stone Cutter's Path – Discussions on purchasing the land for \$1.00 of Community Preservation Act funds had resulted in the delay of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) signing the final deed. It now appears the matter has been settled, with land being given to the Town as a gift, and the deed will be signed at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BOS.
- Maxant, Willard Lane – Nothing new to report

**Adjournment**

Wendy Sisson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55pm. Jaye Waldron 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 April 6, 2017**

#### **Review Order of Conditions, DEP#177-586, with new owner of Pine Hill Village, Stow Road**

- Pine Hill Village 40B – Special Conditions, DEP File: #177-586, Harvard: #1010-02, undated

#### **Meet with Board of Health & Jason Cole to discuss Deer Management**

- Untitled document, detailing Historical estimates for white-tailed deer abundance in Connecticut and Nymphal tick density and deer densities in the MC community in Groton, CT, 1996-2007

#### **Press Release re: Interstate Gas Pipeline**

- city/town conservation commission] is one of Seventy-Four Conservation Commissions Urging Governor Baker to Drop His Support for New Pipelines and More Fossil Fuels, dated March 30, 2017
- Email from Eric Broadbent, subject: Re: MACC letter to Baker re nat'l gas pipeline, to Wendy Sisson, dated April 6, 2017

#### **Approve Invoice**

- J&S Business Products, Inc. Invoice#62046, dated 04/05/2017

#### **Conservation Land Encroachment – Sisters Land, Still River Road**

- Site Plan in Harvard, Mass., prepared for Abed Kanaan, prepared by David E. Ross Associates, Inc., Job No. 25472, Plan No. L-10968, dated 6/23/09