

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 4, 2017
APPROVED: MAY 18, 2017**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:05pm 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, Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Peter & Mimi Dorward, Tom Cotton (HCT), Jim Lee (HCT), Dave Outman (HCT), Margaret Nessler (HCT), Barb & Michael Griesbach

Executive Session

Jim Breslauer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the possible purchase of real property, the public discussion of which could have detrimental effects on the negotiating position, only to return to the public meeting once completed. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Jaye Waldron, aye; Don Ritchie, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye; Jim Breslauer, aye; and Paul Willard, aye.

At the conclusion of the discussion under executive session, Jim Breslauer made a motion to come out of executive session and to return to the public meeting. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Jaye Waldron, aye; Don Ritchie, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye; Jim Breslauer, aye; and Paul Willard, aye.

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – Michael & Barbara Griesbach, 33 Turner Lane, Harvard#0417-01. Opened at 7:38pm

Follow-up to activity on Cruft Lane within Buffer Zone of a Resource Area

Margaret Nessler stated six weeks ago Cruft Lane was regraded and widened, which cause disturbance within the buffer zone. In addition, over the last year the existing farm pond on Cruft Lane has had work done to it, including excavation and the addition of drainage that has been directed to Bower's Brook. Although the land is in agricultural the activity requires permits and/or notification to the Commission. Members of the Commission agreed to review the site and previous information they may have to determine the extent of possible violations of the Wetland Protection Act.

Emails received from Dennis Collins and Robin Carlaw were read into the record.

Master Plan Recommendations

A letter from the Town Planner, Bill Scanlan, and the Master Plan recommendations for the Conservation Commission, were previously distributed to the members. Liz Allard stated the Planning Board is willing to assist the Commission in achieving the goals detailed within the recommendations. Michelle Catalina, a member of the Planning Board, will be reaching out to the Commission during the June 14th Community Preservation Committee meeting in order to provide any additional guidance the Commission may need.

Wendy Sisson stated she would like the Town Planner to assist in mapping the invasive plant species, Japanese Knotweed, along the roadways in Town for management purposes. Ms. Allard stated Mr. Scanlan had assisted her last fall on the process of mapping those areas in the field; however, Ms. Allard is not certain when she would have the time available to complete this task.

Willow Brook Conservation Restriction Request

After a brief discussion, Wendy Sisson made a motion should the Devens Enterprise Commission or its successors ever dissolve, the Harvard Conservation Commission would resume the responsibility under the Conservation Restriction for Willow Brook for the land within the historical boundaries of Harvard. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Minutes

Don Ritchie made a motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2017 as amended. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discuss Public Outreach for Deer & Tick Management with the Board of Health

Wendy Sisson gave an overview of the "Tick Talk" that took place on Tuesday evening. The event was well attended. The next opportunity for public outreach will take place during the Garden Club's plant sale on May 20th.

Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Funding

There still has been no word from the State on the status of the grant application.

Comments to Town Charter

Wendy Sisson stated the letter drafted to the Charter Commission should clearly state the Conservation Commission is not in favor of the Charter. Other minor edits were suggested. Jim Breslauer agreed to amend the letter and circulated prior to the next meeting.

Update on Replacement Bridge over the Nashua River on Jackson Road

Liz Allard and Don Ritchie attend a meeting at Devens last week at which plans for the replacement bridge along Jackson Road were discussed. There will be a public meeting in June. The project is exempt from filing under the Wetland Protection Act.

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

Liz Allard has not had an opportunity to review the draft map for any changes from the previous map. This item will be addressed at the May 18th meeting.

Licensing of Conservation Land Update

Joanne Ward was absent this evening; therefore, this item was passed over.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation

This item was passed over.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27pm. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Request for Determination of Applicability
Hearing Meeting Minutes
Michael & Barbara Griesbach, 33 Turner Land, Harvard#0417-01
May 4, 2017**

The public hearing was opened at 7:38pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 §40 and the Harvard Wetland Protection Bylaw, Chapter 119 of the Code of the Town of Harvard in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 13 Ayer Road, Harvard

Members Present: Paul Willard, Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Barb & Michael Griesbach

This hearing is for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed on behalf of Michael & Barbara Griesbach for the installation of stepping stones within 200' of Bare Hill Pond at 33 Turner Lane, Harvard.

Michael Griesbach explained he would like to install stepping stones in an existing lawn area down to an existing dock. The stones will be brought in with a small excavator with minimal disturbance. On the site walk members discussed the best location for the erosion control, which is from the existing dock to the ledge outcropping, southeast of the dock.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination #3 with the following conditions:

- 1) An erosion control barrier shall be installed from the existing dock to the ledge outcrop. This barrier shall be inspected by the Conservation Agent prior to the commencement of activity;
- 2) Only small equipment shall be used to complete the proposed activity; and
- 3) There shall be no stockpiling of excavated material; all excavated material shall be removed off-site.

Don Ritchie 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 May 4, 2017

Comments to Town Charter

- Draft Proposed Town of Harvard Charter, dated March 31, 2017
- Letter to Paul Cohen, Harvard Charter Commission, Re: Draft Proposed Town of Harvard Charter, March 31, 2017, dated May 4, 2017

Approve Minutes

- Draft minutes of April 20, 2017, prepared by Liz Allard