

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JUNE 1, 2017  
APPROVED: JUNE 15, 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, Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson and Jaye Waldron

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Peter Dorward, Jim Lee (HCT), Tom Cotton (HCT), Mark Shaw and Neil Gorman (Ross Assoc)

**Tripp Land Memorial**

Tom Cotton from Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) was present to discuss the installation of a memorial on the Tripp land in memory of Joseph Tripp. The installation of the memorial was part of the purchase of the land by HCT in 2000. In 2001 the Town purchased the land from HCT, at which point the memorial had still not been installed. Members of the Tripp family had recently requested the memorial be installed as agreed upon during the sale to HCT. The Commission was amenable to the request and felt the stone structure that will be installed will blend nicely into the area. With that said, Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the proposal as detailed in the June 12, 2017 letter from Peter Dorward and Tom Cotton, HCT Trustees. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Open Space Protection Strategy & Plan**

Peter Dorward was present to discuss the development of the open space strategy and plan. Mr. Dorward is seeking feedback from the Commission on what he has developed so far. Part of the plan includes a scoring of parcels of land as to their importance as open space. Mr. Dorward stated the second part of this project is to determine, for the Capital Investments and Planning Committee, what types of funding the Commission will be requesting in the future for land protection. Mr. Dorward suggested reviewing past purchases for both the Commission and Harvard Conservation Trust in order to determine projected cost in the future for the purchase of land. Members agreed and Mr. Dorward agreed to create a spreadsheet of that information.

At this point the Commission will need to complete the scoring on the evaluation output on parcels of land greater than 15 acres in size. Mr. Dorward had compiled a list of lands under Chapter 61 and 61A to be scored. Mr. Dorward will attend the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission to discuss his findings on past purchases.

Joanne Ward arrived at 7:26pm

**Protection of Open Space - Davis Land**

Members had been previously informed that the Town did not receive the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for the Davis Land. The Commission has agreed to continue working with Peter and Mimi Dorward, and Harvard Conservation Trust to protect this land as open space. The Dorward's have suggested the lot lines be reconfigured to create three lots; one which will include the land north of the Dorward's existing land, which will extend to the existing stone wall of the Davis land; the other two lots would consist of the west and east sides of the Davis land. The west parcel contains the existing apple orchard and the east contains wetland resource areas, including floodplains of Bower's Brook. Wendy Sisson stated the land on the east side of the property has a potential to be costly from a management prospective. The area contains invasive plant species, which Mr. Dorward has been maintaining over the past several years, and has offered to continue to maintain, however there is an end date to that offer. After a brief discussion it was the sense of the Commission that they would be interested in the west side of the property only. A new appraisal of the parcels will be needed in order to determine a value of

the new parcel the Dorward's will purchase. Further discussions will take place once those values are determined.

**Notice of Intent Hearing – Mark & Renissa Becker, 40 Woodside Road, DEP#177-656, Harvard#0517-07.** Opened at 7:42pm

**Right of First Refusal – 53 Woodchuck Hill Road**

The purchase and sale agreement had been previously distributed to the Commission. It is the understanding of Liz Allard, that the offer is not valid and is being returned to the seller's attorney to be revised. The Commission agreed that as the lot contains the existing dwelling they are not interested in preserving the land as open space. Wendy Sisson made a motion to recommend the Board of Selectmen waive their right of first refusal for 53 Woodchuck Hill Road. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Request to use the William's Land for Research**

Wendy Sisson made a motion to allow Elizabeth Crone, a biology professor at Tufts University, use of the William's land again this year for her research of the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Review & Approve Letter to Board of Selectmen re: Payment to Town Counsel**

After a brief discussion of the drafted letter the members agreed to review the letter independently and provide comments at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Approve Invoices**

Liz Allard stated the Commission has received the following invoices for inclusion on the next bill warrant:

- Harvard Press - \$51.00
- Bare Hill Pond Homeowners Association - \$100.00

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the above mentioned invoices. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Comments to Town Charter**

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the letter to the Charter Commission, dated June 1, 2017, as amended this evening. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Licensing of Conservation Land Update**

Joanne Ward has nothing new to report as she is still compiling the information on the history of fees collected by the Commission for licensed land around town.

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

Liz Allard has reviewed the proposed maps and has found some of the priority habitats that were on the 2008 map are not included on the draft map, including the area that spans Bower's Brook. With the growing season just upon us and the migration of wildlife at this time of year, the Commission suggested a comment be sent requesting more time to gather the documentation required to include such areas on the map.

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

This item was passed over until the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Request for Plantings within Wetland Buffer Zone**

After a brief discussion in regards to the installation of plantings within the wetland buffer zone at 20 Under Pin Hill Road, members agreed no further action would be required.

**Adjournment**

Don Ritchie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission  
Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes  
Mark & Renissa Becker, 40 Woodside Road, DEP#177-656, Harvard#0517-07  
June 1, 2017**

The public hearing was opened at 7:40pm 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, Jaye Waldron and Joanne Ward

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Neil Gorman (Ross Assoc.)

This hearing is for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Mark & Renissa Becker for grading associated with the installation of a septic system within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 40 Woodside Road, Harvard.

Neil Gorman, of Ross Associates, was present to represent the applicant. Mr. Gorman stated the existing house will be demolished and rebuilt, within relatively the same location. The rear back corner of the property contains a bordering vegetated wetland, in which grading for the new septic system will be within the 100' wetland buffer zone. The septic system is proposed in an already clear area on the property. There is a disturbed area beyond that, which is the location of an abandoned swimming pool. Mr. Gorman stated the closest point of activity is 62' from the wetland edge.

Wendy Sisson stated the area is historically wet and suggested the septic system be relocated to the area of the abandoned swimming pool. Mr. Gorman stated setbacks would require the movement of the proposed structure, which would require removal of the existing driveway and two substantial large trees at the front of the house. Furthermore, additional soil testing would need to be conducted in the pool area and the soil within that area would need to be removed, with new soil brought in to complete the septic system. Ms. Sisson stated it would be better to leave the natural soil as much as possible for drainage. The Commission felt there was room for improvement, since the property is being redeveloped.

With no further questions, Don Ritchie made a motion to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the special condition that low growing vegetation will be planted along the slope for the septic system to avoid the area becoming a lawn area and assist in slowing water prior to entering the wetland. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, with Wendy Sisson abstaining from voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

## **EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS**

### **Conservation Commission Agenda, dated June 1, 2017**

#### **Tripp Land Memorial**

- Memo from Tom Cotton, Peter Dorward, HCT Trustees, Subject Joseph Tripp Memorial, dated 7/13/2017
- Joseph Tripp Memorial Proposal, dated 19 September 2013

#### **Open Space Protection Strategy & Plan**

- Open Space Protection Strategy & Plan, dated 5/22/2017 rev. 2

#### **Notice of Intent Hearing – Mark & Renissa Becker, 40 Woodside Road, DEP#177-656, Harvard#0517-07**

- Sewage Disposal System, designed for Mark & Renissa Becker, #40 Woodside Road, Harvard, MA, prepared David E. Ross Associates, Inc., Nob No. 31672, Plan No. L-13166, dated May 2017

#### **Review & Approve Letter to Board of Selectmen re: Payment to Town Counsel**

- Letter from the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen, RE: Town Counsel Fees, dated June 1, 2017

#### **Approve Invoices**

- Harvard Press Invoice#6460, dated 5/25/2017
- Bare Hill Pone Homeowners Association Road Dues, dated July 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 June 1, 2017

#### **Request for Plantings within Wetland Buffer Zone**

- Email from Claudia Jarrett, Subject: Permission for planting, dated 31 May 2017