

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 1, 2018
APPROVED: APRIL 5, 2018**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road, under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw

Members Present: Paul Willard, Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward and Carl Sciple

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Jim and Lorelei Galeski

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update

Wendy Sisson stated the Land Stewardship Subcommittee (LSS) has scheduled the spring walk for Sunday, April 8th at 1:00pm. This year's walk will feature the Kaufman land and the recently acquired Shaker Quarry land off of South Shaker Road.

Ms. Sisson asked the members to offer suggestions for naming the land purchased last year along Massachusetts Avenue.

The annual migration of amphibians, also known as "Big Night", may come early this year with the change in weather patterns. Ms. Sisson is looking into purchasing new amphibian crossing signs that are made of a sturdier material than that used for last years signage, which all cracked and broke during or shortly after installation. With that said, Don Ritchie made a motion to allocate up to \$150.00 for amphibian crossing signs. Carl Sciple seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Sisson stated the LSS is in need of additional yellow and blue trail blazes and nails for installation of the blazes. Ms. Sisson is working with Voss Sign to get the appropriate blazes. Don Ritchie made a motion to allocate up to \$700.00 for new trail blazes and nails. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Sisson stated Mark Sevigny has taken on an independent project of mapping all of the trails in town to be placed on a website he has created (Harvardtrails.com). A set of these maps were provided to the Land Use office and will be distributed to the Commission members for comment. These maps currently include the Town seal, which Mr. Sevigny will need permission from the Town Clerk to use.

Wetland Enforcement - 28 Shaker Road, Harvard#0117-02

A site walk was conducted on Wednesday with member of the Commission, the Conservation Agent and the applicants, Jim and Lorelei Galeski. Five additional trees were marked with white paint for removal. The site still has a large amount of the vegetation from the trees already felled, which makes it difficult to determine the next steps in remediation of the situation. The Conservation Agent has been in touch with the company doing the work, who will contact her prior to any additional activity. The site will be reviewed later this spring to determine the next steps.

Don Ritchie made a motion to remove the Enforcement Order issued on February 15, 2018, which required all activity to cease and desist. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discuss Potential Gift of Land – Brown Road

There was nothing new to report at this time.

Smith Land – Littleton County Road (Map 14 Parcel 56)

Wendy Sisson would like to conduct a site walk of the site before meeting with Sudbury Valley Trustees. A time suitable for those interested in viewing the site will need to be arranged.

Preservation of Open Space along Willard Lane

Wendy Sisson stated she met with Dan Wolfe, of Ross Associates, and Tom Cotton, of Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT), to discuss the opportunities to preserve open space on the Capobianco land. The backland is the focus for the Commission as it would allow for access to areas that the abutting Willard land does not. Mr. Cotton indicated HCT is willing to arrange for an appraisal of the property. Preliminary design of the property indicates the ability to create four new lots, with the forth lot being problematic due to wetlands and access from either the existing driveway or from Willard lane. The lots along Willard Lane are highly developable. It is recommended the Commission apply for the upcoming Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant for funding of this project.

Montachusett Regional Trail Coalition - Strategic Planning Process

Wendy Sisson shared the responses she prepared. The members agreed those responses should be forwarded to the Montachusett Regional Trail Coalition.

The following items appeared on the agenda under “Pending Business” and nothing new to report at this time unless otherwise noted:

- Deer Management Update – sent charter to all the groups; have not heard back as of yet
- Potential Open Space – Woodside Road, Map 30 Parcel 14
- Licensing of Conservation Land Update – send out invoices; Paul will talk to Franklin Carlson
- Update from the State Service Forester – Cruft Lane
- Chapter 147 Wetland Protection Bylaw Regulations
- Open Space Committee

Request for Input – Town Administrator Review

Members agreed to send comments to Liz Allard, who will work with Paul Willard on a final response, which is due Wednesday March 7th.

Adjournment

Wendy Sisson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. Joanne Ward 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 1, 2018