

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 6, 2019
APPROVED: AUGUST 1, 2019**

Vice Chair Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:03pm 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, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Jim Burns and Mark Shaw

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Steven & Carolyn Fader, Marty Green (Harvard Press), Libby Levison (Board of Health), Tom Cotton (Harvard Conservation Trust), Jason Cole (Deer Management Subcommittee) and Bob Douglas (Deer Management Subcommittee)

Informal Discussion with Steve Fader, 304 Ayer Road in regards to proposed barn and shed

Paul Willard, Jaye Waldron and Liz Allard visited the site on May 21st. Mr. Willard stated the property contains areas that are seasonally wet, in addition to other wetland resources areas. Jaye Waldron stated she is worried about horses on the property due to the extensive wet areas on the property. Mr. Willard would want to revisit the site during the dry season to determine if its just spring rains and high rain fall that is causing the site to be so wet. Mr. Willard suggested the Fader's have soil sampling completed to determine if the soils are hydric. An additional site walk was scheduled for August 28, 2019 at 5:15pm.

Executive Session

This item was unnecessary this evening.

Open Space Committee documentation for Select Board Strategic Planning Session

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the letter, as revised this evening, to the Select Board in regards to the Open Space Committee, with support letters from Harvard Conservation Trust, Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee, Planning Board and Agricultural Advisory Committee. Jim Burns seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Pine Hill Village Update

Wendy Sisson gave an update from the previous evening's Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, which included concerns raised by a resident in close proximity to the project; those concerns being exterior lighting and construction vehicles being parked or at idle in front of her property. Ms. Sisson addressed concerns with the homeowner association fees and there being ample amount of funds available when such things as the septic systems need to be replaced.

Liz Allard explained she is still unable to obtain a water sample from the culvert that is under the existing cart path into the site. Ms. Allard requested this sampling location be changed to the existing intermittent stream within the property until the culvert under the cart path is functioning. Wendy Sisson made a motion to amend condition #7 under Storm Water Management with the Special Conditions for Pine Hill Village, DEP#177-586 by replacing "Outlet of the culvert under the existing dirt access to the property off Stow Road" to "Down stream side of the intermittent stream crossing". Jim Burns seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Harvard Department of Public Works, Slough Road, DEP#177-673, Harvard#1018-03. Opened at 7:37pm

Deer Management Subcommittee (DMS) Update

- **Deer and Ticks** – Libby Levison, chair of the Board of Health (BOH), stated she personally feels some of the communication from DMS is promising a reduction in tick populations. The best advice the BOH has given to the public is personal protection; Ms. Levison would like the presenter, Sam Telford to detail personal protection.
- **Increase Membership** – This item was passed over
- **Town Counsel Advice** – DMS is seeking advice from Town Counsel as to what types of votes are needed to allow bow hunting on conservation land. Wendy Sisson made a motion to seek Town Counsel's advice on this matter. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.
- **Website Information** – DMS created a website separate from the Town's website. Liz Allard confirmed with the Assistant Town Administrator that all content as it pertains to the Town of Harvard, including subcommittees, should be on the Town's website. Jaye Waldron stated the DMS should have run some of the content on this new website by the Commission before publishing it; the intent and mission on new website is different from the actual approved mission statement. Ms. Allard will work with the DMS to create its own page on the Town website off of the Conservation Commission page.
- **Lectures Series** - DMS is seeking to add an additional lecture in July, with hopes of a final report to the Commission in August. It was explained that the use of NextDoor Harvard is acceptable to announce events, but not to debate an issue.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee (LSS) Update

- **Beavers, Maple Lane** – A recent beaver dam along Maple Lane that caused flooding to properties along Shaker Road beg the question of a need for a beaver deceiver in that location. The land in question may not be Town-owned land, which will need to be determined. Since the Board of Health (BOH) can issue an emergency trapping permit outside of trapping season they should be provided with a list of locations at which a beaver deceiver has been installed, as the point of the deceiver is to live in harmony with the beavers, not trap and kill them. Having the location list of deceivers will allow the BOH to ask questions before signing off on a trapping permit.
- **Hosking's Point Graffiti** - The LSS was recently alerted to extensive graffiti at Hosking's Point. Wendy Sisson is working with others on the LSS on different types of methods to remove the graffiti that was painted on stones and trees.

5-Year Land Use Board Plan

Liz Allard stated as part of her annual review is an action item to work with Chris Ryan, Director of Community and Economic Development, on a 5-Year Land Use Boards Plan. All the Boards and Commission will be updated on this project during the course of the year in order to provide feedback.

Use of Pesticides/Herbicides around Bare Hill Pond

Liz Allard was recently alerted to the use of mosquito control on properties around Bare Hill Pond, including one that has had an Order of Conditions, which has a permanent condition stating chemical pesticides and herbicides shall not be used within 100' of the pond. Ms. Allard would send a letter to all of the abutter's to Bare Hill Pond stating the Wetland Protection Bylaw Regulations has a chemical free zone, which includes fertilizers and lawn chemicals, etc. Ms. Allard was asked to research what other communities are doing and how the State's determination on this provision within the Bylaw, of two years ago, relates to the uses around the pond.

Update on 3rd Annual Environmental Forum

The Commission previously received a copy of the minutes detailing the Environmental Forum held on May 30th.

Approve Minutes

Jaye Waldron made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2019 as amended. Jim Burns seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

Wendy Sisson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm. 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 June 6, 2019

DRAFT HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING, APRIL 18, 2019,
prepared by Liz Allard

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing
Harvard Department of Public Works,
Slough Road, DEP#177-673, Harvard#1018-03
June 6, 2019**

The public hearing was opened at 7:37pm by Vice Chair Paul Willard under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 13 Ayer Road, Harvard

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Jim Burns and Mark Shaw

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin)

This hearing was continued from May 16, 2019 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Harvard Department of Public Works for the replacement of an existing culvert with concrete headwall and hooded catch basin within 100' of a wetland resource area between 88 and 118 Slough Road, Harvard.

At the request of the applicant Jim Burns made a motion to continue the hearing to June 27, 2019 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

