

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2019
APPROVED: FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

Chair Don Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:05pm 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: Don Ritchie, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward, Jim Burns, Mark Shaw and Derek Beard (Associate member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Boards Administrator/Conservation Agent) and Rob Duzan

Discuss Request for the use of the Haskell Land for Livestock with Rob Duzan

Rob Duzan was present to discuss his desire to start a 4H Club in Harvard by raising Dexter cows on the Haskell land at the corner of Still River Road and Willard Lane. The Haskell land is currently licensed to St. Benedict's Abbey, who shares the field with Paul Willard, who cultivates pumpkins and Mike Hampson, who hays the remaining area. Mr. Duzan has spoke with Abbott Connelly who has stated the Abbey no longer wants to hold the license for the land. Mr. Duzan has also discussed his desire use with Mr. Willard.

Mr. Duzan is seeking to use approximately an acre of land in the north-west corner of the field along Still River Road and Willard Lane. Mr. Duzan would till the land and have it grassed by spring. In the spring Mr. Duzan would install fencing and house, at maximum, three Dexter cows on the land. Wendy Sisson asked about the drainage to avoid the area becoming a muddy pit. Ms. Sisson was assured the land is sloped and would drain properly. Mr. Duzan stated he is seeking to have the cows here for the next five years at a minimum.

At this point the Commission will need to confirm the information provided in regards to the Abbey no longer wanting to hold the license for the land, as well as determine if Mr. Hampson wants to continue haying the field. Fees for the use of the land will need to be worked out as well. Mr. Duzan will provide contact information for Abbott Connelly and Mr. Hampson.

Update Pine Hill Village

Don Ritchie stated as of last week all of the trees within phase 1 and 2 have been cut. Liz Allard had previously distributed the site inspection reports received from Nitsch Engineering. These reports have been added to the Pine Hill Village webpage on the Town website, which can be found here: <https://www.harvard.ma.us/conservation-commission/pages/pine-hill-village-development-stow-road>. In an effort to keep the developer up to date on site monitoring being completed by Nitsch Engineering, Ms. Allard has requested Nitsch Engineering include the developer on all emails in regards to reports.

Ms. Allard has not received any unsolicited updates from the developer since November 22nd and had difficulty getting an update on the activity planned for this past week.

Revised Driveway Easement for 98 Shaker Road

Calls to Attorney Gould's office have gone unreturned. Liz Allard will follow up again before the December 19th meeting.

Accepting Precipitation Frequency Statistics prepared by the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University

Don Ritchie will review other community's regulations in regards to what they require for stormwater calculations and report back to the Commission in January.

Potential dates for Smith Land Opening Walk

The Commission had no opinion as to the date of this walk.

Request to Remove Trees at 169 Littleton County Road, Harvard#0619-01

Don Ritchie and Liz Allard reviewed the site this afternoon with David Crossman. The request is to remove nine trees in various conditions. The majority of the trees have suffered damage due to invasive plants, such as bittersweet. Mr. Luciano will replace each removed tree with two trees of similar species. Trees are located within the 0 -50' wetland buffer zone. Wendy Sisson thinks trees closest to the wetland should remain, with new trees planted near the 50' wetland buffer zone line. Jaye Waldron agrees with Ms. Sisson in regards to maintaining trees that are close to the wetland. The Commission agreed Don Ritchie and Liz Allard should re-review the site with Dave Crossman to gather further information as to the locations of the trees to be removed and the locations of the replanted trees.

Proposed Revisions to Wetland Protection Regulations 310 CMR 10.00

Liz Allard stated the proposed revisions include additional language in regards to the effective date of Determinations and Orders, mailing by certified mail to the Department and the Applicant, clarifying language in regards to Request for Action by the Department (Appeals), and an update to the wetland indicator plants to the *State of Massachusetts 2016 Wetland Plant List*, published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2016. Public comments can be submitted until the end of January.

Approve Invoice

Joanne Ward made a motion to approve the invoice for Heritage Fields in the amount of \$2400.00 for the field maintenance of the Herman Orchard. Jim Burns seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Minutes

Jim Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2019 as amended. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Jim Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019 as amended. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2019 as amended. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Jim Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2019 as amended. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

Jim Burns made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Paul Willard 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 December 5, 2019
- Heritage Fields Bruce Scherer, Invoice#684, dated 2019-11-24
- DRAFT HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING, September 12, 2019, prepared by Liz Allard
- DRAFT HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING, September 19, 2019, prepared by Liz Allard
- DRAFT HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING, October 3, 2019, prepared by Liz Allard
- **DRAFT HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING, October 17, 2019, prepared by Liz Allard**
- Heritage Fields Bruce Scherer Invoice#684, dated 2019-11-24