

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 16, 2016
APPROVED: AUGUST 4, 2016**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Volunteer Government Room at Town Hall 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, Charlie Gorss, Joanne Ward, Jaye Waldron and Jim Burns (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Jonathan Bransfield (Bransfield Tree), Peter Dorward (HCT), Jim Lee (HCT) and David Outman (HCT)

Review and Approve Phase II - 55 West Bare Hill Road

Liz Allard had previously distributed information from the applicant's representative in regards to Phase II of invasive control at 55 West Bare Hill Road. Although Wendy Sisson is not present this evening, she requested the vegetation first be re-cut and then apply the pesticides. Jonathan Bransfield, who was present, stated the re-cutting of the vegetation would be burden that would not be cost effective. Members agreed that as long as Ms. Sisson was agreeable to not re-cutting the vegetation, work may begin.

Request to Remove Tree on Barton #3 Land

Liz Allard explained to the members the new property owners at 4 Willow Road have requested permission to remove two dead trees from the abutting conservation land known as Barton #3. Ms. Allard, Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer and Jim Burns visited the site earlier this week to view the trees in question.

After a brief discussion, Jim Breslauer made a motion that the property owner was approved to remove the requested Hemlock and could remove only the left leader on the other tree in question. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discuss Letter sent to the Board of Selectmen

Paul Willard has been contacted by members of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) who have asked the Commission to consider rescinding the letter requesting an apology for the actions of one BOS member at the annual town meeting. Mr. Willard would like to rescind the letter to avoid confrontation in the future.

After a brief discussion, Charlie Gorss made a motion that Commission never speak of the letter again. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Meet with Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee

Members of the Commission and the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee reviewed the Goals & Objectives under the Action Plan as part of the Open Space & Recreation Plan. Recommendations were discussed and incorporated as appropriate.

Executive Session

Don Ritchie 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. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Charlie Gorss, aye, Joanne Ward, aye; Don Ritchie, aye; Jim Breslauer, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Paul Willard, aye.

LAND Grant – Sherry Road

Don Ritchie made a motion authorizing the Commission to proceed with the LAND grant for the purchase of 48+/- acres of land along Sherry Road and to pursue funding of up to \$200,000 from town meeting. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request to Purchase Land – 37 Pine Ridge Road

Liz Allard explained she had been contacted by the current owner of 37 Pine Ridge Road, who is interested in selling her property to the Commission. The Commission stated as a property within an association and consisting of a dwelling, they have no interest in acquiring this property.

Approve Minutes

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 21016 as amended. Joanne Ward Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Invoices

Liz Allard stated the following invoices have been received and require approval for inclusion on the next bill warrant:

- Mark J. Lanza - \$1133.00
- MRPC - \$743.40
- Bruce Scherer - \$1200.00

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

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update

With Wendy Sisson absent this evening there was no update for land stewardship activities.

LAND Grant Update – CPIC Application

There was nothing new to report at this time in regards to this matter.

Update on Gifts of Land

There was nothing new to report at this time in regards to this matter.

Bylaw Amendment – Land Subject to Flooding

There was nothing new to report at this time in regards to this matter.

National Grid Request to Remove Trees on Conservation Land

Liz Allard along with Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer and Jim Burns visited several locations around Town on Tuesday with the representative from National Grid. Trees slated for removal on conservation land were reviewed. For the most part the group agreed with the trees requested. Changes were made, including keeping rather than the removal of some trees. A detailed list of the trees reviewed has been drafted.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to send the letter as drafted to National Grid. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

Don Ritchie made a motion at 8:51pm to adjourn the meeting. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent