

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 5, 2022
APPROVED: JULY 7, 2022**

Chair Don Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:02pm, virtually, pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on February 15, 2022, 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, Jim Burns (arrived at 7:20pm), Mark Shaw and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Boards Administrator/Conservation Agent), John Iacomini, Joe & Sarah DiBartolo, Jon Burke, Bob Douglas (Deer Management Subcommittee), Dan Tracey and Bruce Ringwall (GPR, Inc.)

Interview Potential Volunteer for Vacancy on Conservation Commission

John Iacomini - Is a 4-year resident of Harvard who previously resided in Somerville. Mr. Iacomini grew up in a rural area in upstate New York and is happy to be in Harvard with lots of natural resources that should be preserved. Mr. Iacomini is looking to get involved in the community and has a flexible schedule with some advance notice. Mr. Iacomini has spent time in the outdoors for a large part of his lifetime as an active sportsman. Mr. Iacomini believes Harvard has unique opportunities to conserve its resources for the next generation. Mr. Iacomini has read-up on the mission of the Commission and has previously been through the application process, which from his experience it made a lot of sense. Mr. Iacomini is familiar with volunteering and the additional requirements beyond the bi-monthly meeting as he has spent time as a liaison to Mass Wildlife in conjunction with a sportsman association.

Daniel Tracey – Is a long-time resident of Harvard with a PhD in biology, with a 30-year career in pharmaceutical research and discovery. Mr. Tracey is retired and conducts consulting work part-time. Mr. Tracey has previously completed the Mass Audubon field naturalist certification, which has provided him with familiarity of the biodiversity of wetlands and their protections. Mr. Tracey's interest in wildlife stems from a long-term of volunteering at Tufts wildlife clinic. Mr. Tracey has been a vocal participant of the discussion on how to manage the deer population and as to whether or not Harvard has a problem, to which he would like to bring his wildlife background to provide another view point. Mr. Tracey would like to be more actively involved in the management of the deer in Harvard, which is a complex issue, with a lot of factors that are unique to Harvard.

Both Mr. Iacomini and Mr. Tracey were thanked for attending this evening and informed the Commission will discuss their recommendations to the Select Board at a later date.

Deer Management Subcommittee State Report Update & Monitoring Program

Bob Douglas, chair of the Deer Management Subcommittee, highlighted the information within the State's Deer Harvest Summary for 2021, which can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

Request to remove Granite Wetland Markers & Replace with Fencing – 204 West Bare Hill Road

Jon Burke, the new owner of 204 West Bare Hill Road, was present to get a sense of the Commission on the removal of the granite markers that were a requirement of the Order of Conditions when the house was rehabilitated a number of years ago. Mr. Burke would like to remove the granite markers and install a split-rail fence to contain his dog on the property, with the split-rail being more historically appealing to the site. A determination as to where exactly these posts are located would be necessary for the Commission to make a determination. Liz Allard will work with Mr. Burke to make that determination.

Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions – Luciano Manganella, 175 Littleton County Road, DEP#177-694. Opened at 7:27pm

Request to Amend the Order of Conditions Hearing – Douglas Schad, 74 Poor Farm Road, DEP#177-710, Harvard#012201. Opened at 7:39pm

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Yvonne Chern, 203 Ayer Road, Harvard#0322-01. Opened at 7:41pm

Re-issue Certificate of Compliance – 21 Candleberry Lane, DEP#177-209

Jaye Waldron made a motion to re-issue the Certificate of Compliance, DEP#177-209, for 21 Candleberry Lane. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Jim Burns, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye and Don Ritchie, aye.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee (LSS) Updates

- **Plan for the Haskell Land:**
 - Mike Hampson is available to conduct the seeding. Seed itself will be \$3800 for a combination of the grasses and wildflowers for the pollinators, with an additional \$1000 for seed driller;
 - A treatment with round-up will need to be completed before the seeding occurs. The cost associated with this activity will be \$200/acre, for a total of \$1200;
 - This plan is a 10-year plan with mowing required within the first year;
 - The soil is no longer viable for any other crops except for hay. These improvements would build back the soil;
 - Other benefits are to insects and wildlife, where other agricultural lands will benefit from the insects as well;
 - Did not use all of the funding previously requested for the preparation of the land; and
 - This project is part of the over-all invasive management program for conservation lands; therefore, funding is still available.
- **Trail Mapping Project:**
 - This project is in its initial stages and is in conjunction with the Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT); and
 - This is not a project initiated by the LSS or the HCT.
- **Agricultural Preservation Restriction Community Harvest Project (CHP), Prospect Hill Road**
Proposed Trail:
 - Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has reviewed the site for the trail easement that will be hugging the edge of the property from Dean's Hill to Prospect Hill Road;
 - As long as CHP are the land-owners they have the ability to dictate where the public can walk on the land, if it changes hands access could not be denied but could be limited as MDAR does not allow for certain uses; and
 - The proposed easement is through wetlands, but may never be used hopefully.
- **Town Meeting vote for Community Preservation Act Funds for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction at Community Harvest Project:**
 - The last \$100,000 will be voted on at the spring Town Meeting; for a total of \$400,000 from the Town.

Annual Town Meeting Support of Article 9 Administrative Assistant to the Land Use Boards

Liz Allard reminded members of the Commission that the full-time Conservation Agent position is contingent on Article 9 for the Administrative Assistant to the Land Use Boards position passing at the

spring town meeting on May 14th. Don Ritchie asked members to help spread the word to support this article.

Approve Invoices

Jaye Waldron made a motion to approve the invoice for Moore's Lumber in the amount of \$23.37 and Voss Sign in the amount of \$534.25. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Jim Burns, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye and Don Ritchie; aye.

Pine Hill Village Update

There was no update this evening

Adjournment

Jaye Waldron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Jim Burns, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye and Don Ritchie; aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Conservation Commission Agenda, dated May 5, 2022
- Notice of Intent Residential Development Site Plan 74 Poor Farm Road Harvard, MA 01451, prepared for Douglas B. Schad, JOB 01.151, prepared by GPR, Inc., dated 04/15/22

Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions Hearing
Luciano Manganella, 175 Littleton County Road, DEP#177-694, Harvard#0820-04
May 5, 2022

The public hearing was opened at 7:27pm by Acting Chair Wendy Sisson under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and the Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw virtually, pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on February 15, 2022.

Members Present (and able to vote on this application): Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, and Jim Burns

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent), Paul Willard, Jaye Waldron and Mark Shaw

This hearing was continued from April 21, 2022 for a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions filed on behalf of Luciano Manganella to revise the utility connections to a single-family dwelling with temporary impacts to the wetland resource area and the 100' wetland buffer zone at 175 Littleton County Road, Harvard.

The applicant's representative stated they are still awaiting input from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Jim Burns made a motion to continue the hearing to May 19, 2022 at 7:00pm. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Jim Burns, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Request to Amend the Order of Conditions Hearing
Douglas Schad, 74 Poor Farm Road, DEP#177-710, Harvard#0121-01
May 5, 2022**

The public hearing was opened at 7:39pm by Chair Don Ritchie under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and the Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw virtually, pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on February 15, 2022.

Members Present: Don Ritchie, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward, Jim Burns, Mark Shaw and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent),

This hearing is for a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions filed on behalf of Douglas Schad to relocate the proposed barn within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 74 Poor Farm Road, Harvard.

The proposed amendments to the previously revised plan had been discussed at the April 21, 2022 meeting, therefore there were no questions from the Commission or the general public.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to close the hearing and issue an Amended Order of Conditions that references the revised plan dated April 15, 2022. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Jim Burns, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing
Yvonne Chern, 203 Ayer Road, Harvard#0322-01
May 5, 2022**

The public hearing was opened at 7:40pm by Chair Don Ritchie under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and the Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw virtually, pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, and signed into law on February 15, 2022.

Members Present: Don Ritchie, Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward, Jim Burns, Mark Shaw and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent),

This hearing was continued from April 21, 2022 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Yvonne Chern for the construction of commercial structures with associated parking, grading and drainage within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 203 Ayer Road, Harvard.

With no one present to represent the applicant, Jim Burns made a motion to continue the hearing to June 16, 2022 at 7:30pm. Paul Willard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Jim Burns, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye; Paul Willard, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent