

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2016
APPROVED: JANUARY 19, 2017**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:02pm in the Town Hall 13 Ayer Road 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, Jim Breslauer, Joanne Ward, Jaye Waldron and Don Ritchie

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Jim Lee (HCT) and Tom Cotton (HCT)

Executive Session

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

Don Ritchie arrived at 7:07pm

Discuss Conservation Strategy with Harvard Conservation Trust

Jim Lee, from Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT), was present to discuss with the Commission its strategy as it pertains to the protection of open space. The Open Space & Recreation Plan details some of the strategy used by the Commission when determining if a parcel is significant enough to protect. Mr. Lee requested the Commission provide the reasoning for protecting and how those mechanics would work. After further discussion, Mr. Lee suggested two members of the Commission and HCT work together to develop a strategy that can be used by both organizations for the preservation of land. Commission members agree to the suggestion. Don Ritchie and Paul Willard volunteered to assist in this process.

Discuss Next Steps with Horse Meadow Knoll, Sherry Road

Jim Lee stated Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) is seeking other partners to conserve the land along Sherry Road. Other alternatives to raising the funds have been discussed by HCT, including the sale of two house lots. HCT is seeking to extend the existing purchase and sale agreement to March in order to have time to conduct additional engineering for the property. At this point HCT is moving ahead without requesting any further assistance from the Town with the purchase of this property.

Proposed Harvard Snowmobile Club Protocol

With Wendy Sisson absent this evening the Commission passed over this item; it will be on the next agenda.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Appointment

Liz Allard stated Jim Burns has volunteered to fill the remaining term of Jim Saalfeld on the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. Joanne Ward made a motion to appoint Jim Burns to the Land Stewardship Subcommittee to fill the remaining term of Jim Saalfeld, which will expire on March 31, 2019. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Minutes

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2016 as amended. Jaye seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Invoices

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

- Mark J. Lanza - \$68.00
- Land Stewardship, Inc. - \$2097.20

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the above mentioned invoices for inclusion on the next bill warrant. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

MACC Request to Comment – Interstate Gas Pipeline

Liz Allard had distributed to the Commission a sample letter prepared by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners to the Governor in regards to the Interstate Gas Pipeline. Jim Breslauer made a motion to allow the chair to sign and send the letter on behalf of the Commission. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Comments to Draft Proposed Charter

Liz Allard had previously distributed a memo to the Charter Commission in regards to comments made by the Commission at their last meeting in response to the draft Charter for the Town of Harvard. Jim Breslauer asked that the item in regards residential review of employees include contracted employees as well. The Commission had no other suggested to comments to the memo as drafted.

Update of the FY18 Budget Questions

Paul Willard stated there has been no new information in regards to the potential of increasing the hours of the Board of Health clerk to allow for a shared use of this position with the other three land use boards.

Willard Land Conservation Restriction & Trail Easement

There was no update available this evening on this matter.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Updates

Liz Allard stated she has been in touch with the State in regards to the requested information for the draft Open Space & Recreation Plan. At this point Ms. Allard needs to complete the revisions to the inventory list; once this is completed the Plan can be distributed for comments to the appropriate agencies.

Update on Gifts of Land

- Stone Cutter's Path – Liz Allard is still trying to get the representative from Stone Cutter's Path and Town Counsel in contact with each other; she has requested the Town Administrator determine why Town Counsel will not respond to the representative.
- Still River Road - The Commission is waiting to hear from the Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) on their interest in accepting this parcel as a gift as it abuts existing Trust land. HCT will meet on December 21st to discuss this matter.

Adjournment

Don Ritchie made a motion at 8:40pm to adjourn the meeting. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent