



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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Conservation Commission Minutes **February 8, 2010**

Meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by member, Alan Chaney
Members present: Jeff Haight, Juan Amodei, Bill Moeller, Judy Larter, Marilyn Pike and Leah Basbanes
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, lower level

Mike Jones – Mass Wildlife Biologist – turtle barriers

Mr. Jones asked to meet with the Conservation Commission regarding turtle barriers. He explained to the Commission that as part of his duties, he researches solutions for wildlife as well as endangered species permitting. He went on to say that there is concern at the state level with the high levels of road kill in Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell and Littleton. One area in particular is on Rte 113 near the Pepperell line. The state is hoping to install barriers to divert wildlife into the culverts to avoid road crossings. Mr. Jones told the Commission that his group would like to implement temporary barriers (for 1 year), on both sides of Pleasant Street (near the Pepperell border), for about 140 meters on each side. The area would be monitored and if effective, they would come back to the Commission to discuss permanent barriers. Mr. Jones said that they would use either silt fence or ¼” hardware cloth as a barrier. The Commission asked Mr. Jones to look into the following suggestions:

1. Can the barrier be either green or light brown (instead of black) in order to match the surrounding vegetation?
2. Could a sign be installed or the barrier stenciled with the words “turtle research protection area”?
3. Could turtle nesting sites be incorporated into the plan?

After the discussion, the Commission told Mr. Jones that since the barrier would be installed on upland area, no Request for Determination would need to be filed. Mr. Jones will keep the Commission informed with their progress.

Adam Frye

Mr. Frye did not attend the meeting.

Meeting Minutes of January 11th

Marilyn made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted, from the January 11th meeting. Judy 2nd the motion. – Motion passed.

Bills

None



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Fiscal year 2011 Budget

The Commission reviewed the fiscal year 2011 budget. An increase of \$200 for the Expense fund was requested.

MACC Dues

Last month, the Commission questioned how the MACC determines the amount towns pay for dues. The Secretary called MACC and was told that the amount was determined by population and median income of the residents.

MACC Conference

Marilyn made a motion for Alan to attend the MACC Conference to be held on February 27th in Worcester. Juan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed.

External Disk for Pictometry

The secretary told the Commission that Juan would like to copy the Pictometry information onto a personal external hard drive so that he can use the information at his house for Conservation purposes (i.e. wetland issues, mapping, etc). She went on to say that John Matley (NMCOG) said that he could do that as long as Juan only uses it for Conservation (Town) business (and not for uses such as for a real estate agent, or selling the images). Juan told Commission members that he would only use the product for Conservation purposes.

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife letter for modification of access

The Commissioner received a letter from Ben Mazzei (Division of Fisheries & Wildlife) regarding modifying the access for their project on Lowell Street, due to the field conditions. After discussion, Judy made a motion to modify the access for their OOC. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed.

Acknowledgement of donations for Hardy Street (Carter) Property

Alan signed the letters of donations for the Hardy Street (Carter) parcel. These letters will be mailed for 2010 tax purposes.

Hardy Street (Carter) Property Dedication

Alan said that he had talked with Leah about suggestions for naming the newly acquired Hardy Street (Carter) parcel. Both felt that “Howard’s Brook” should be incorporated into the name since it runs throughout the property. Alan also mentioned to Commission members that (not including CPA funding) the largest contributor to the project (DRLT) had received a substantial donation from Arlene Fitch. This donation was used for the purchase of the parcel, therefore, Alan suggested the property be named: **“Howard’s Brook Conservation Area preserved in memory of Arlene M. Fitch.”** If the Commission agreed, Alan will contact Ms. Fitch’s family



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to notify them of the dedication. Bill made a motion to dedicate the property as suggested. Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed.

Draft License Agreement

Alan reviewed, with the Commission, the draft license agreement for Gary Gouldrup. A performance bond would need to be posted by the Commission because of state involvement with the project. After the discussion, Marilyn made the motion to authorize Alan Chaney to act on behalf of the Commission with regard to signing the license agreement. Judy 2nd the motion. – Motion passed.

MACC Resource Center

Alan told Commission members that MACC launched a new Electronic Resource Center on their web site. This center will enable Commissions to share documents that other Commissions have created or find useful for their work.

Wall at McGovern Farm

The Commission discussed the hearing notice they received for the repair of the wall at McGovern Farm on Main Street. Bill, Alan and Leah showed interest in attending the meeting to gather information and possibly make suggestions for protecting the wetlands as well as esthetics with regard to the wall. Bill told Commission members that he would like to see fieldstone laid on top of the concrete wall. He went on to say that he had talked to George McGovern about the possibility of filling in some wetlands with a replication area in another area of the property.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Commission discussed sections of the Open Space and Recreation plan. Bill had worked on the first 19 pages of the plan. Some updated numbers will not be available until the current census data is published. The following people agreed to work sections of the plan.

1. Leah – maps and inventory
2. Judy – pages 79-89
3. Alan – history

The Commission agreed to come to the next meeting prepared with updated ideas for Section 8 (Goals).

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Motion 2nd - Motion passed. The next scheduled meeting for the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, February 22nd at 7:30pm, downstairs at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary – Dunstable Conservation Commission