



OFFICE OF THE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313  
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893  
mailto:concom@dunstable-ma.gov

**Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Monday, January 9, 2017**

Approved: January 23, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Chairman Jeff Haight  
Members present: Leah Basbanes, Bill Moeller, Judy Larter, Alan Chaney and Juan Amodei  
Member absent: Marilyn Pike  
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall– 511 Main Street-lower level– Grange Room

**Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2016**

Alan made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

**Bills/Payroll**

None

**Certificate of Compliance – 473 Pond Street - Zannoni**

Anthony Longo contacted the office to request that a Certificate of Compliance be issued for the Zannoni property at 473 Pond Street. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Alan met Mr. Longo at the site to insure that the project had been completed in compliance with the Order of Conditions issued in June of 2016. Alan told members that everything looked good therefore he made a motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance for 473 Pond Street. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

**Possible Wetland Violation – Off Pond Street**

A resident called about a possible wetland violation on Off Pond Street. Jeff went out to the site and told members that there is evidence that ATV's have been tearing up an area of wetlands on property belonging to the Staples family. Most likely, the Staples are not aware that this has been going on. Alan made a motion that he be allowed to contact the Staples family and ask them if they would like the Conservation Commission to install "No Trespassing" signs on the property. He will contact the Police Department to ask them to check on the site on the weekends. Letters will go out to all residents on Off Pond Street and the immediate area to remind them about driving ATVs on private property and in wetlands. A reminder will also be placed in the Neighbor to Neighbor. Leah 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan's motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

**National Grid Letter**

The Commission received a letter from National Grid informing members that they



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intend to selectively apply herbicides along power line rights-of-way that pass through Dunstable. Treatment period starts January 30, 2017 and goes through December 31, 2017. The Conservation Commission reviewed the map titled "Rights-of-Way 1685, 4007" "IVM2017".

### **2016 Annual Report**

The Commission reviewed the draft 2016 Annual Report. Alan made a motion to approve the report as submitted. July 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **MACC Request – Letter to Governor Baker on Gas Pipelines**

The Conservation Commission received an email from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) requesting that we send a letter to the Governor requesting him to end his support for the new interstate gas pipeline. Leah told members that she thought the Town Administrator may have sent a letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Juan stated his concern about the cost of electricity and said that without additional information; he would be opposed to signing a blanket letter saying we don't want this without knowing what we are specifically opposing. Members decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

### **Grant Opportunity E-Mail**

The Commission received an e-mail from the state regarding a possible funding opportunity. Eligible projects include development of trails in an existing conservation area which Judy thought was a good idea. The application deadline is Thursday, March 9, 2017. Maximum grant award is \$300,000. The Administrative Assistant will review the criteria and forward them to the Commission

### **MACC Conference Theme Assistance**

The Administrative Assistant told members that she had received an e-mail from MACC who would like to include local Commission's information in a slide show at their annual conference. They would like one PowerPoint slide that includes the name of the Commission, year it was established, photo or other graphic relating to the Commission, photo of a wetland we manage, a map of our parcels and a short statement. The Administrative Assistant will put together the information.

### **Westford Street CR Grant Application Update**

The State Standard Contract, LAND Project Agreement and Contractor Authorized Signatory Form were sent certified mail to the EOEEA on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



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### **Update Open Space Plan by December 2017**

The Administrative Assistant told members that the Open Space and Recreation Plan will expire December of 2017. She is looking to see if there is grant money available to hire a firm to revise the 2010 plan.

### **ANRAD Hearing – 489 Forest Street – Christopher Bertrand**

Jeff opened the hearing at 7:30pm. In attendance were Christopher Bertrand and his wetland consultant Dave Burke. Leah went out to the site to review the wetland flags. There are some minor changes that need to be made on the plan. A DEP file number has not been issued. The Administrative Assistant e-mailed DEP and found that Mr. Burke did not use the eDEP system and did not send the application to the Central region. As the hearing could not be closed, Mr. Bertrand requested a continuance. Alan made a motion to approve the request. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The hearing will be continued to the next available date which is currently January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. When leaving, Mr. Bertrand submitted for the files some pictures that he believes show that Black Brook is an intermittent stream.

### **461 Forest Street – Tree Removal in the Buffer Zone – Dennis Chartier**

Mr. Chartier attended the meeting to discuss removing a large number of 120 foot high pine trees on his property, many within the 60 foot buffer zone. He has hired forester Craig Birch. The Commission discussed meeting Mr. Chartier at the site and scheduled the visit for Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. The Commission explained that if tree removal is granted, Mr. Chartier can grind the stumps, however no stumping will be allowed without first filing a Notice of Intent.

### **Pleasant Street Extension – Possible Wetland Violation**

A resident called the office to discuss a possible wetland violation on Pleasant Street Extension. The properties involved look to be owned by the power company and a resident on Pleasant Street. Jeff and Alan had been out to the site and discovered someone had put 300 feet of telephone poles and plywood in the wetlands. There is an additional 100 feet of poles lying on the ground. The resident told members that people arrive by car pretty much every weekend and use their ATVs, tearing up the wetlands. Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90B, Section 26, paragraph (e), "no person shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle on privately-owned property unless...the operator has in his possession...a document, signed by the owner...authorizing operation of such vehicle..." There is also a section regarding operating such vehicles on publicly-owned property. Alan made a motion to contact the power company and the resident and ask them to attend our next meeting. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> the



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motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda**

#### **Occupancy Permit – 23 Massapoag Way**

Ken Tully attended the meeting to request an Occupancy Permit signature for 23 Massapoag Way. Mr. Tully told members that straw waddles were installed in time for winter. Grass will be planted in the spring. He will request a Certificate of Compliance once the area is stabilized. Leah made a motion to sign the Occupancy Permit for Lot 2 – 23 Massapoag Way. Juan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Christmas Tree**

Although the Commission did not hold the Christmas tree sale in December, members sold \$330 worth of trees.

#### **Flat Rock Field/Blanchard Hill**

Alan reported that he received a quote from Anthony Longo to remove trees and chip the stumps to ground level at Flat Rock field. The quote was approximately \$2,500-\$3,100 (includes mowing). Alan is waiting for a quote to do some small amount of tree cutting and cleaning at the top of Blanchard Hill and will discuss both at an upcoming meeting.

Motion was made to close the meeting at 8:13pm. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2017, 6:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann  
Administrative Assistant  
Dunstable Conservation Commission