



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, February 27, 2017**

Approved: March 13, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Jeff Haight  
Members present: Leah Basbanes, Bill Moeller, Judy Larter, Alan Chaney and Marilyn Pike  
Member absent: Juan Amodei  
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall– 511 Main Street-lower level– Grange Room

### **Request for Determination Public Meeting – 4 Sweets Pond Rd. – Estate of Judith Sweet**

Jeff opened the Request for Determination (RFD) Public Meeting for 4 Sweets Pond Rd. Leah explained that Jeff Hannaford could not attend tonight's meeting. No one from the public was in attendance. The RFD was filed for a septic system replacement approximately 45' away from a wetland. There is limited space on the property to place a new system. The existing system failed title 5. After the discussion, Alan made a motion to close the public meeting and issue a negative 3 determination provided that the work is completed in compliance with the following conditions:

**a) Erosion control must be installed showing the limit of work; contact the Conservation Commission once it is installed for inspection; b) An as-built must be submitted to the Conservation Commission when the system has been installed showing the location of the system and final grades.**

Approved plan: Subsurface Sewage Disposal System by Norse Design Services, Inc., for Judith Sweet, 4 Sweet Pond Road, Dunstable, MA, dated: 9/9/16  
Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2017**

Judy made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23rd meeting. Leah 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Bills/Payroll**

Invoices for certified mail and the sign for the Westford Street project were signed as well as payroll slips.

### **March 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Administrative Assistant told members that she will not be at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members will hold the meeting and take minutes.



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### **Pleasant Street Extension Violation**

Alan told members that he went out to the site after receiving a call that there were ATVs in the wetlands. He noticed four pickup trucks parked on the property across the street. After notifying the Police Department, an officer was able to speak to the ATV riders when they were loading their machines on trucks and explained to them the motor vehicle trespass law. They said they would not ride on the private property again. Alan said that while he was out at the site, he noticed the strong smell of the creosote on the telephone poles in the wetlands. These poles should be treated as hazardous waste and disposed of properly. Alan will follow up on this issue with National Grid as the poles are believed to be their property.

### **Ratify Signatures on State Grant Application**

Alan made a motion to ratify the grant application signatures from two weeks ago for the Open Space and Recreation grant. Leah 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Nashua NH Parcel – Exemption Request**

Alan made a motion to send the exemption request to the City of Nashua for the small sliver of property the Conservation Commission owns in Nashua NH near the border of the Stone Arch Bridge. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Stone Arch Bridge Tree in Danger of Falling**

Jeff told members that he would like the Commission to send a letter to Nick Caggiano who works for the City of Nashua, to ask that he remove a dead tree on the Nashua NH line that is in danger of falling. Alan made a motion to send the letter and pictures with a copy of the letter going to the City of Nashua Department of Public Works. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **477 Forest Street – Erosion Control and OOC Filing – Cease and Desist Issued**

The Commission never heard from the owners of 477 Forest Street. Judy will go out to the site to see if the erosion control has been repaired. The Administrative Assistant will check to see if the Order of Conditions has been filed at the North Middlesex Registry of Deeds.

### **Possible Wetland Violation – Off Pond Street**

Alan spoke with Mrs. Staples who said that she will order some "No Trespassing" signs to post on her property.



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

Alan explained that the maintenance of the field will be completed in the spring by Anthony Longo. The Commission asked Alan to have Mr. Longo take the wood chips with him. If he does not want the chips, Alan will ask him to put them in a pile in a specific area of the field.

Blanchard Hill needs more extensive work to establish a field. The cost of \$5,000-\$7,000 is more than the Commission has in their accounts. They may apply for Community Preservation Funds. It was mentioned that maybe in conjunction with the Recreation and Highway Departments, a commercial mower could be purchased to keep the fields cut.

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

The sign has been delivered to the office and will be installed in the spring. Jeff and Alan are working on the GPS coordinates and pictures for final reimbursement. Leah will talk with Tracey about having Attorney Brian Falk work on the three Conservation Restrictions that Attorney Larkin has not turned over to the Commission.

### **Kendall Cranberry Bog – High Street – Alan Chaney**

Alan asked members if they would support the purchase of the remaining 11.47 acres of land owned by Kathleen Henry on High Street. There is 126' of frontage on the road. The property has 800 feet of frontage on Salmon Brook. The entrance to the property is steep and if it were sold for house lot(s) would need a wetland crossing. Leah said there are factors that would need to be investigated such as if the stream is perennial which would involve the River's Act, the steepness of the entrance, how a common driveway would be incorporated with a wetland crossing, etc. Mr. Henry has indicated that he is looking for \$200,000 for the 11+ acres. After the end of the discussion, Judy made a motion that the Conservation Commission takes the next steps in possibly purchasing the Henry property for up to \$200,000; applying for a state LAND grant, applying for Community Preservation Act funds and putting an article in the Annual Town Meeting for the purchase. Leah 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Timber Cut Approval of Town Parcels – Alan Chaney**

Alan told members that there are some forest cuts that can be done in 2017. They include the Kennedy Conservation Area, Amos Kendall Conservation Area, Town Forest and the Helen Hogg property which would be a Legacy Cut. Leah made a motion to allow Alan Chaney to proceed with asking NEFCO to submit a request to timber the above listed parcels. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.



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

#### **Alexander Way Rail Road Bed Trash**

Judy told members that trash coming off the construction site has drifted all over the old railroad bed. There is plastic from the erosion control as well as other building materials. The Commission asked the Administrative Assistant to notify the Planning Board and ask them to hold the developer responsible for removing the materials.

#### **Associate Members**

Bill Moeller mentioned that he would like to see free training offered to residents that would like to be Associate Members. The Commission decided that if someone agrees to join the Conservation Commission, they would pay for the cost of training. Members asked the Administrative Assistant to post that in the Neighbor to Neighbor.

#### **Discussion with Attorney Deschenes – Bear Hill**

Leah said that Attorney Deschenes asked if the Conservation Commission would be the holders of the Conservation Restriction for the property that Mr. McGuire is donating to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust. Alan made a motion that the Dunstable Conservation Commission agree to hold the CR on the property. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to close the meeting at 7:55pm. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2017, 6:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann  
Administrative Assistant  
Dunstable Conservation Commission