



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, December 11, 2017**

Approved: January 8, 2018

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

**Building Permits – Lots 2-8 Bear Hill Estates – Mike Genetti**

Mr. Genetti presented seven building permits for the Chairman to sign for the Bear Hill Estates development. None of the parcels have Orders of Conditions associated with them. Leah made a motion to sign all of the permits. Alan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

**Permission to Metal Detect on Best Property – Michael Recco**

Mr. Recco asked to address the Commission to see if they would allow him to conduct metal detecting on the Best property (Main Street). He explained that he has done this at the McGovern and the Patenaude Farms in Dunstable and on Conservation properties in his hometown of Pepperell. He told members that after removal of an item, he returns the area to its original state. Leah asked Mr. Recco if he would be willing to turn over to the town any artifacts of important historical significance since the Town/residents ultimately own the property. Mr. Recco said that he would. There was discussion on what would be considered "important historical significance". Alan told Mr. Recco that if the Commission supports his request it would be under the condition that everything (with the exception of aluminum cans) he finds must be offered to the Board of Selectmen or Conservation Commission. If the Town decides they want the item(s), they get to keep it/them. If they do not, Mr. Recco may have it/them. Since the Board of Selectmen appoints the Commission, they asked Mr. Recco to seek written approval to conduct metal detecting on the Best property from the Board of Selectmen.

**Occupancy Permits – Lots 2 & 3 (24 & 34 Maple Street) – Ken Tully**

Mr. Tully offered two Occupancy Permits for 24 and 34 Maple Street. Only lot 24 Maple Street has an Order of Conditions associated with it. Mr. Tully will file for a Certificate of Compliance in the spring. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously to sign the two permits.

**Certificate of Compliance (COC) - 17 and 23 Massapoag Way – Ken Tully**

Members went out to the site and discovered that 23 Massapoag Way's As-Built shows that the porch is within the 60' no build area. Ken said that the homeowner changed the house configuration and he didn't realize he encroached into the restricted area. Ken asked how he could rectify the error. Members want the bank stabilized. Ken said he would use Steve Erikson from Norse and come up with a plan to rebuild the slope. The Commission suggested



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using core logs and vegetation. Alan made a motion to sign the COC for 17 Massapoag Way but hold 23 Massapoag Way until the Commission has been satisfied with the slope stabilization. This may not happen until the spring of 2018.

### **Letter from Elizabeth Faxon – Volunteer as a Conservation Commission Member**

Ms. Faxon wrote the Commission a letter offering to volunteer her time as a member of the Dunstable Conservation Commission. A resident of Pepperell, she explained that there aren't any vacancies coming up in her hometown. She has a background in wetlands. The Administrative Assistant contacted the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions and found out that when fulfilling a vacancy from a member that left after their term expired, the Board of Selectmen could appoint a resident of another town, however, to fill a spot mid-term, it must be with a resident of Dunstable. The Commission offered an Associate position to Ms. Faxon as long as residents from out of town can be members. Ms. Faxon will be welcome to attend meetings but will not be able to vote until a member's term is up, at which time she may be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

### **Nashua River Scenic River Committee Presentation/Discussion**

Leah told members that she is involved with the Wild and Scenic River Committee, which is hoping to present to Congress the designation of three rivers as "wild and scenic". The Committee will be looking for Town Meeting support in May. A portion of one of the rivers is in Dunstable, the Nashua River. This river has biological, recreational and historical components that make it worthy of designation. Although a federal program, it is managed at the local level. There are no regulatory federal components to the designation.

### **Meeting Minutes – November 27th**

Leah made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27th meeting. Alan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Bills/Payroll**

An invoice for Staples and the Administrative Assistant's payroll were signed.

### **Building Permit – 493 Forest Street (Lot 2) Bertrand**

The Administrative Assistant presented the Building Permit for 493 Forest Street. There is a recorded ANRAD and Order of Conditions for the property. Juan made a motion to sign the permit. Kieran 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Request for Determination Extension – 29 Sky Top Lane**

The Administrative Assistant told members that Neil Gorman from David E. Ross Associates filed a Request for Determination for 29 Sky Top Lane. Since the next meeting falls on December



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25<sup>th</sup>, a day the Town Hall is closed, the public meeting will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup> which is over the 21-day statutory period that the public meeting can be opened. Mr. Gorman requested an extension. Leah made a motion to approve the request. Alan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

The Administrative Assistant read an email that came from the Department of Environmental Protection asking Mr. Gorman to verify that the area does not qualify as an Isolated Land Subject to Flooding and if it qualifies with Federal jurisdiction under 33 U.S.C. 1251, he must file a Self-Verification Notification Form to the Army Corps of Engineers.

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup> – Town Hall Closed**

Alan made a motion to cancel the December 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kieran 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

#### **Christmas Tree Money**

The Administrative Assistant told members that she has collected as of tonight, a total of \$195.00.

#### **Kendall Cranberry Bog Grant Application Update**

The Conservation Commission received word that the state approved the Kendall Cranberry Bog grant. Alan and Jeff offered to attend the December 19<sup>th</sup> mandatory meeting in Westborough.

#### **Pleasant Street Extension Site Visit – Poles in Wetland**

Jeff met Ed Robertson from National Grid at the Pleasant Street site. Mr. Robertson confirmed that the poles were National Grid's, however, explained that National Grid would not have put them there. He said that he would contact someone in the company to see about having them removed. Since that day, the Town Administrator received an email from Scott Farrar, Manager of Community & Customer Management that said that he planned to reach out to their transmission department and wanted to know what the Town expected National Grid to do about the problem. Juan said that he would contact someone he knows at National Grid.

#### **Open Space and Recreation Plan**

The Administrative Assistant said that the plan is nearly complete. Alan asked that "creation of an informative book on all our properties" be added to the list of goals.

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



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**Bill Moeller Appointment**

Bill attended the meeting at the request of the Commission to discuss his re-appointment to the Commission (fulfilling his vacancy). Bill confirmed that he would be willing to return to the Conservation Commission. Juan made a motion to ask the Board of Selectmen to reappoint Bill Moeller to the Conservation Commission. Alan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed with Leah abstaining from the vote.

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to close the meeting at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann  
Administrative Assistant  
Dunstable Conservation Commission

APPROVED