

Approved 2/7/2017



Town of Duxbury  
Conservation Commission  
DUXBURY, MASS.

TOWN CLERK  
2017 FEB -8 PM 2:18

**Minutes of January 24, 2017**

The Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Mural Room at the Duxbury Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Chairman Corey Wisneski; Sam Butcher; Robb D'Ambruoso; Tom Gill; Mickey McGonagle; Holly Morris

**Members Absent:** Scott Zoltowski

**Staff Present:** Joe Grady, Conservation Administrator; Susan Ossoff, Administrative Assistant

**DUXBURY WETLANDS REGULATIONS DRAFT REVISIONS: PUBLIC COMMENTS DISCUSSION**

The Conservation Commission has been undergoing a review of the Duxbury Wetlands Regulations and suggesting revisions. The draft revised Regulations were made available to the public with hard copies placed at the library and Town Hall and a PDF file available on the Town's website; a press release to the Duxbury Clipper announced the availability of the document for review and described the review and comment process. Comments were required to be submitted in writing to the Conservation office by noon on Tuesday, January 17. All comments received were distributed to the Commissioners. Anyone interested in the process and those who submitted comments were invited to attend a discussion of the comments to the draft at the January 24 meeting. These comments will be discussed tonight and if necessary at the February 7 meeting; on February 28 there will be a Public Hearing to adopt the revised regulations.

Three written comment letters were received. They were from Paula Shakespeare on Gurnet Road; Lenore White of Wetlands Strategies, and from Friends of the Bluefish River.

Attending from the public were: Kathy Palmer; Lenore White; David Mittell, Jr.; Sherm Hoyt; John Palmer; and Frank Holden. The three comment letters were reviewed item by item and were discussed and some edits to the revised regulations were suggested for incorporation into the draft. The discussion will continue at the next meeting. The Commission expressed its thanks for the valuable comments that have been received and for the careful review of the revised regulations by the public.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE:**

**SE18-1714, 274 Marshall Street:** Inspections have not been completed so no action is recommended on this Certificate of compliance.

**SE18-1690, 80 Pinehill Ave:** Inspections have not been completed so no action is recommended on this Certificate of compliance.

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The mission of the Town of Duxbury is to deliver excellent services to the community in the most fiscally responsible and innovative manner while endeavoring to broaden our sense of community and preserve the unique character of our town.

**DRAFT OPEN SPACE PLAN REVIEW**

Mickey McGonagle offered his comments on the plan. He suggested the plan be published on the Town's website; Holly Morris clarified that the previous plans are available on the website and this one will be as well. He suggested that the Commission undertake to have a yearly update on its progress on the goals and objectives and action plan that relate to the Commission. He suggested there be an inventory of developable land. Holly Morris said the Comprehensive Plan should address that with a build-out analysis. Joe Grady said they have in the past used the analysis in the Comprehensive Plan, and perhaps that could be added as a goal – to do that analysis if it does not get done as part of the new Comprehensive Plan. Tom Gill said that including a list of developable land makes it easy for developers and he believes it absolutely should not be included in the plan. Mickey McGonagle felt that factual information is necessary in order to address issues related to development; this could help identify targeted areas for purchase. Holly Morris said the Old Colony Planning Council suggested adding a list of targeted areas for acquisition in the plan but they do not intend to do that; the priority areas are those around the previously identified greenbelts. Joe Grady said you can look at it globally – what is the maximum build-out – and set a goal, for example to preserve 4 of every 10 acres. Commissioners will continue their review and provide comments to the Open Space plan group as soon as possible.

**TOWN MEETING ARTICLE APPROVAL**

The Commission has a number of articles on the Town Meeting warrant:

**Article 22:** Article 22 is the CPC project to complete the Jaycox Tree Farm irrigation system. Joe Grady reported that over 1000 trees were lost due to the drought this year. \$20,000 has already been invested in the well and electric, an additional \$25,000 is needed for piping and sprinkler heads. On a motion by Corey Wisneski, seconded by Sam Butcher, it was voted 6-0-0 to support and recommend Article 22 to the Annual Town Meeting.

**Article 23:** Article 23 is to replenish the Conservation Fund with \$100,000 from CPA funds. These funds are used to purchase small parcels of land, do appraisals and land surveys, and for other land management expenses. There is presently about \$24,000 in the fund. On a motion by Tom Gill, seconded by Sam Butcher, it was voted 6-0-0 to support and recommend Article 23 to Town Meeting.

**Article 27:** Some parcels of land owned by the Commission are lacking deed language that permanently protects the land by including the language that they be under the 'care and custody' of the Conservation Commission. The land files are being reviewed and a number of parcels have been identified that are included in this article. On a motion by Robb D'Ambruso, seconded by Tom Gill, it was voted 6-0-0 to support and recommend Article 27 to Town Meeting.

**Conservation Land Purchase:** this will be an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant. This is an Executive Session matter but the Commission has voted to support this article.

**Sustainable Duxbury Request:** A representative from Sustainable Duxbury has asked to do a presentation to the Commission about a Town Meeting article proposing to ban disposable plastic bags in Duxbury. The Commission will allow a brief presentation at its next meeting.

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**Adjournment:** On a motion by Robb D'Ambruoso, seconded by Sam Butcher, it was voted 6-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

**MATERIALS REVIEWED AT THE MEETING**

Draft Revised Duxbury Wetlands Regulations

Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan