



TOWN OF GROVELAND

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**TOWN OF GROVELAND
MASSACHUSETTS 01834**

BOARD: Conservation Commission
TOPIC: Monthly Meeting
MEETING DATE: **October 12, 2016**
MEETING PLACE: Conservation Commission Office
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Dempsey, H. Meninger, J. Gebauer, F. O'Connor, T. Schaefer
MEMBERS ABSENT: T. Grim
GUESTS: none
RECORDER: M. Dempsey

(Action Taken)

Gebauer motioned to open meeting at 7:03 pm. Meninger seconds the motion.
(Voted: 5-0).

Old Business:

A request for waiver from Groveland Highway Dept. to place dock into middle of river. There is also another restriction from another Department. Unfortunately, at the time they didn't have all the parts and now they do.

Schaefer asked if the plan is the same. Dempsey said that it is.

(Action Taken)

Schaefer motioned to grant a seasonal restriction waiver to place components to the dock by the Groveland Highway Dept. November 1-April 15. O'Connor seconds the motion. (Voted: 5-0).

Minutes

Meninger motions to accept the minutes to July 23, 2016. Gebauer seconds. (Voted: 4-0-1.)
Schaefer abstains.

Meninger motions to approve September 14, 2016 minutes with changes. Gebauer seconds.
(Voted: 4-0-1.)

Meninger motions to approve minutes to September 26, 2016. Gebauer seconds the motion. (Voted: 3-0-2.) Schaefer and O'Connor abstain.

New Employee

Dempsey will start working with the new agent on Thursday. Seasonal restriction letters will go out tomorrow. Rosemarie Decie will meet with Dempsey. He will bring her up to date with all the town properties.

Lower Center St Public Hearing

Dempsey moved to open the public hearing on Lower Center Street Picnic area at 7:15 p.m. Schaefer seconds the motion. (Voted: 5-0).

Meninger visited the site on June 24 with the new regulations from the fire chief. The combustible material was there and the trees would need to be cut down. The Fire Chief would like the canopy taken off. He would like the grills 10ft. away from the vegetation. Also, he wants the Conservation Commission to issue all permits to use grills in the area.

Kathy Sample -40 Center St. asked why the grills were taken out. What prompted them to be taken out?

Jim Manganiello- 2 Center St. This is a very delicate wetland treasure. There is an order of conditions issued by the Commission in place. The area should be protected.

Stan Sample- 40 Center St. –All the trash that was in there has been cleaned up. Since the picnic area project was put in its better so why were the grills taken out? Overall it is a better place since the eagle scouts project took part in the area. The trash is there when the trash company doesn't pick it up. The residents should be able to use the conservation land.

Bill Dunn Board of Selectman stated the BOS has not tried to stronghold the Conservation Commission.

Without the grills there won't be fires. The rubbish in the area has improved. We can work with the Police so the area is patrolled. It is a shift point turn around for the police. If a light is put in it will deter people from being down there. It's a small place you can put in a canoe. Rocks were put down there to deter parking on the road. The intention is not to block off the school bus turn around.

Meninger asked if a car is parked in a no parking area will a violation be given out.

Dempsey confirmed that this area is under an Order of Conditions.

Dan MacDonald-2 Wyka Lane- (BOS) stated he supports the grills. With respect to the Fire Chief and the grills and fires, safeguards can be put into place. Trash barrels can be picked up by volunteers. If there are erosion areas it can be mitigated. The order of conditions should be followed. The parking area –access point works. Veasey Park is not a viable place for canoes and boating. If the issue is out of town usage then the area should be restricted to Groveland residents. Maybe we can cut down the impact by reducing the people that use it. Permanent

barriers at the boat access are a safety concern. The Sherriff Dept. can bring the inmates to clean up the area.

Jan Dempsey -33 Uptack Rd said if the canopy has to be cut then it will have a permanent impact on the area and be compromised. It has been safer with no grill fires especially during the extreme drought situation we are in.

Mr. Sample stated there is a boat ramp at the pumping station if there is an emergency.

Dempsey read into the record a letter from Robert Ward, Deputy DPW Director of Haverhill Water/Wastewater Division. (See attached) Johnsons Pond is classified as a Class A public drinking water supply for the City of Haverhill. Mr. Ward is concerned with the risk of fire and it impacts to Johnsons Pond. Our intent is to have appropriate protective measures for recreation and other activities on Johnsons Pond to protect the environment and public health we believe a cooperative effort to preserve and protect Johnsons Ponds is in the best interest of both Groveland and Haverhill as Johnsons Pond is a valuable natural resource for both communities.

Nancy Amidio- 22 Center St. - commented about the area and how she has cleaned up trash after people have used the picnic area.

(Action Taken)

Dempsey motioned to close the public hearing at 8:18 p.m. Meninger seconds the motion.

(Voted: 5-0).

NOI-Groveland Water Dept.-Water Main Replacement- Request for Determination.

By: Environmental Partners- Opened hearing at 8:20 pm

The Request for Determination –to replace a 10in. diameter pipe to a 12in.diameter pipe. There are three separate wetlands that will need to be crossed. There is minimal excavation going on over there. All catch basins will have silt socks and filters will be placed. The contractors can be in and out of buffer zones 1-2 days. Argilla Brook is where this will be crossing over the open channel. There will be extra erosion controls put into place there.

Main St. and Gardner St- Proper erosion controls in the wetland area will be placed. The pipe goes in on Monday thru Thursday and they will plate the road. Fridays is when they will pave the road. The time line is May, June, July in 2017. This can be approved under the GRDA and the conditions will be as to what the plan is.

(Action Taken)

Dempsey motions to close the hearing at 8:38p.m. and to approve the permit as submitted with additional erosion controls on the middle crossing in the portions of Gardner and School St near Main St. Schaefer seconds the motion. **(Voted: 5-0).**

Commissioners continued their discussion on Lower Center St and the information collected in writing and from the public hearing.

Trash cans

Gebauer said he would like to keep the picnic table and bench and keep the grills out.

Schaefer said taking out a table and putting in a bench wouldn't make a difference. He went down there on 9 different occasions including Father's Day and 4th of July and there wasn't a difference.

Dempsey spoke about the pathways and erosion near the pond. He doesn't think we should limit boat use there however.

O'Connor said the garbage barrels are irrelevant there. Also people use canoes and leave them at Veasey Park.

(Action Taken)

Schaefer motioned to leave the current 2 trash cans and a recycle barrel on site and have the BOS make sure the trash is picked up by the new company. Gebauer seconds. **(Voted 5-0)**.

Limiting to Groveland Residents

Schaefer motioned to not restrict the area to just Groveland Residents. O'Connor seconds the motion. **(Voted 5-0)**.

Restrict Illegal Parking

We can use boulders to restrict parking in the area. They allow access to pond so people don't drag in the boats. Restrict the area of parking by the picnic tables.

Dempsey motions to restrict illegal parking using boulders on both sides of road within 100ft. of picnic area because it is within 100ft buffer of pond. Meninger seconds the motion. **(Voted 5-0)**.

Replacing the grills

Meninger motioned not to replace the grills based on the fire chief's recommendations and regulations, negative impact on land and the proximity and necessary removal of combustibles.

Gebauer seconds the motion.

(Voted 4-1-0). (O'Connor voted no.)

Schaefer would like to discuss at the next meeting where to store the grills.

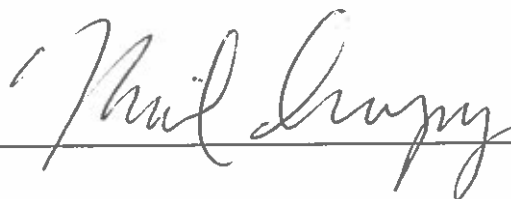
Dempsey went over seasonal restriction information with the commissioners.

Dempsey doesn't expect any more waivers for this year.

Meninger motioned to adjourn at 9:36p.m. Gebauer seconds the motion. **(Voted 5-0)**.

The next meeting is November 9, 2016.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

11-9-16