

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**February 19, 2009**  
**APPROVED: March 5, 2009**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Jaye Waldron, George Watkins and Jim Breslauer

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Pam Durrant (Land Stewardship Subcommittee)

**Minutes**

Liz Allard stated both Jaye Waldron and Jim Breslauer had reviewed the minutes of January 8 and 15, 2009. Wendy Sisson made a motion to accept the minutes of January 8 and 15, 2009 as amended. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Site Assessment & Management Plan for Prospect Hill Conservation Area and the Baseline Documentation Report for Dean's Hill Conservation Restriction**

Wendy Sisson has reviewed the Site Assessment & Management Plan and has a few items to be included before it is a completed document. Ms. Sisson stated the mapping is very helpful to the Commission. Ms. Sisson would like to have some more recent history of the area added to the report. Ms. Sisson would like the maps to include more features such as wood roads, trails and certified and potential vernal pools. Although species in the general area were listed, Ms. Sisson would like the report prepared by Nashaway Trackers be incorporated to the species specific to the site. On page 18, information in regards to the drawdown of Bare Hill Pond should include information on the effects to the marsh down stream and that the number one threat is the development of land. There is data from the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee available.

Another threat that is mentioned in the report is the transfer station at the Highway Department. Paul Willard stated that has been there so long and is so extensive if it is not leaking then it may be okay. Pam Durrant stated the Highway Department is slowly encroaching onto Conservation land with tree stumps and what not.

The invasive plant species does not include purple loosestrife. George Watkins stated that it has been previously mentioned that access may be difficult and consultation with a forester would be helpful. Ms. Sisson does not think this is a suitable location for a logging operation. Mr. Willard does not think that the Commission should log just to make money. Ms. Durrant stated one thing you can address is thinning for habitat. Ms. Durrant stated the snowmobile club is mowing at the top of Deans Hill, but not in any constant pattern. Ms. Sisson did not see anywhere in the report habitat management of

the old growth forest. Ms. Durrant stated Tony Shaw, a member of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee (LSS), has previously mentioned that cuttings had taken place there.

Ms. Sisson stated that outcroppings noted on the plans would be helpful. In regards to the Nashaway Trackers, Ms. Sission will confirm and see what information they have to offer. Ms. Sisson would ask Mr. Holland if he has any other areas that are sensitive in which trails should be avoided. There may be trails that should be abandoned and others established and to help redundant trails. Ms. Durrant believes the Area of Critical Environmental Concern should be mentioned, as it runs along this property boundary. Ms. Durrant stated the report should reflect that the Conservation Restriction is in process and not completed.

Recommendation from the Commission will be written by Wendy Sisson; as well she will send the LSS a list of the requested changes.

### **Continuation of an Abbreviated Notice of a Resource Area Delineation Hearing.** Opened at 7:36pm

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

Liz Allard informed the members of the 120 parcels under Conservation approximately twenty-five of them need to be added to the Land Book. The Land Book itself needs to be updated as some information has been found to be incorrect. George Watkins suggested Ms. Allard prepare a spread sheet of the required information and divide it among the members. Ms. Allard will also speak with the Council on Aging to determine if there are any seniors available through the tax work-off program.

#### **Trail Clearing After the December Ice Storm**

The Commission agreed that any work on the trails to aid in the clean up after the ice storm should be done by hand and if larger debris requires a chainsaw individuals should contact Phil Knoettner. Any feedback on what trails need work would greatly be appreciated.

#### **Enforcement Order – Louis & Barbara Hadad, 9 Haskell Lane**

George Watkins had informed Liz Allard of a potential wetland violation on Haskell Lane involving the cutting of trees within the buffer zone of an existing pond. Ms. Allard went out in reviewed the site and spoke with property owner Barbara Haddad about the activity. Ms. Allard was informed that the trees were either dead or no longer had the top portion due to the December ice storm. Ms. Allard informed Mrs. Haddad she would discuss the situation further with the Commission to determine what steps they would like to take, but that most likely she would be receiving an Enforcement Order and that no additional trees should be removed.

The members agreed to issue an Enforcement Order that states there will be no further cutting and the property owners are to appear at the next meeting to let the Commission know what further work they are planning and what should be filed to resolve the work

that has already taken place. The Commission scheduled a site walk for February 26, 2009 at 5:00pm.

### **Tree Clearing After the December Ice Storm**

The members agreed that a press release should be submitted to the local newspapers guiding property owners on how they should proceed with tree maintenance after the December Ice Storm. Liz Allard spoke with Jennifer Gensel at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who suggested the Commission issue a Town wide Emergency Certification Form for this type of activity. Ms. Gensel had stated that the DEP had recently worked with Shrewsbury on the same subject matter. Ms. Allard also contacted Shrewsbury which informed her that they decided not to issue the Town wide Emergency Certification Form as it opened up too many loopholes. Ms. Allard received an email from the Agent in Shrewsbury that outlined the procedure they have accepted. The Commission agreed with the procedure Shrewsbury accepted and requested a press release be drafted for members to review and submitted for next week's issues of the local newspapers.

### **Warrant Article**

Jim Breslauer suggested a warrant article be submitted for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Mr. Breslauer is suggesting language be revised in the Code of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw Section 7F to be consistent with the Wetland Protection Bylaw Regulations, Chapter 147 of the Code in regards to consultants. A public hearing will be held on March 5, 2009. Liz Allard will inform the Town Administrator that an article will be submitted by the Commission.

### **Adjournment**

George Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission**  
**Continuation of an Abbreviated Notice of a Resource Area Delineation**  
**LTI Harvard Orchard LP 320 Ayer Road, Meeting Minutes,**  
**DEP#177-557, Harvard#1208-01**  
**February 19, 2009**

The public hearing was opened at 7:36pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 §S40 and the Coe of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 119 in the Town Hall Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Jaye Waldron, Jim Breslauer and George Watkins

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin)

This hearing was continued from January 8, 2009 filed on behalf of LTI Harvard Orchard LP for the review and approval of a delineated wetland at 320 Ayer Road, Harvard.

A request had been received from the applicant's representative for a continuance of the hearing to April 2, 2009. Don Ritchie made a motion to continue the hearing to the April 2, 2009 at 7:30pm. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent