

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 15, 2007**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order 7:07pm at pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Charlie Gorss, Otto Solbrig and George Watkins

Others Present: William McCurdy, Mark Saganich, Jonathan Williams, Paul Johnson, George Dimakarakos (Stamski & McNary), Donald Provencher (Provencher Engineering), Kathy Fricchione, Stanley Murphy, Brad Taylor, Mike Ivas (MHOC), Meg Bagdonas, Gerry Welch (MHOC), David Crossman (B&C Associates) and Terry Gensel (Ross Assoc.)

Minutes

Otto Solbrig made a motion to accept the minutes of January 18, 2007 as amended. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion with the exception of George Watkins who was not at that meeting.

Otto Solbrig made a motion to accept the minutes of October 5, 2005 as amended. George Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion with the exception of Wendy Sisson who was not at that meeting.

Harvard Historical Commission Appointment

Otto Solbrig has volunteered to represent the Commission on the Historical Commission.

Master Plan Implementation Committee

Paul Willard volunteered to be the Commission representative to the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Conservation Restriction – Mirror Lake and Esker Parcel, Devens

In 1999 the Trustees of the Reservation accepted a Conservation Restriction on Mirror Lake and Eskers parcels at the Devens Commerce Center. As part of the agreement the Towns of Harvard, Shirley and Ayer along with Mass Development agreed to contribute \$20,000 to the Trustees Conservation Restriction Fund. Vic Normand of Mass Development has contacted the Commission in regards to their portion of the \$20,000. Mr. Normand is requesting the Commission pay their portion of the contribution, \$3,333.

Otto Solbrig made a motion to allow the distribution of \$3,333.00 from the Community Preservation Fund money within the Conservation Fund for the Trustees of the Reservation Conservation Fund. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Global Information Systems (GIS)

Wendy Sisson explained to the members that Dan Foster came into the office to demonstrate to herself, George Watkins and Liz Allard how to use his GIS program. Ms. Sisson thinks it looks pretty handy. ArcView would be needed to use this application. Otto Solbrig stated having the program is the simplest step, keeping up with the ongoing updates makes it time consuming. Mr. Solbrig stated you need someone who is willing to learn it and keep up with it. Jim Breslauer stated that the application sounds fascinating, but what would happen if Mr. Foster is no longer available to maintain the application, where would that leave the Commission.

Mr. Solbrig believes the Commission needs to find someone within Town who will take care of GIS. The Commission needs to determine what the Pictometry program can do before buying any other programs. The Admin will contact Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to see if we can get more information and help.

Signage

Wendy Sisson informed the members the Stone field needs a sign. Paul Willard will speak with the Highway Department to determine if they are still capable of making signs. The Sharply land also need a sign with the name of the land.

Step it Up

Wendy Sisson informed the members that on April 14th Harvard will be participating in "Step It Up" an organization that expresses hopes and fears about global warming. Kites are being made that will be strung up on the Common, attached will be postcards that will be sent to legislators. Ms. Sisson will be there to represent the Commission.

Nashaway Trackers Donation

Charlie Gorss explained to the members that Nashaway Trackers have under taken the task of tracking the wildlife on Deans Hill for the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. The subcommittee would like the Commission to donate \$250 to them. Wendy Sisson has been out with them and stated they use the funds for GPS and GIS tracking and maintaining their web site. Wendy Sisson made a motion to donate \$250.00 from the Community Preservation Fund of the Conservation Fund. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Certificate of Compliance – Mary Wood, 4 & 5 Wilroy Road, DEP#177-458

Paul Willard informed the members he has reviewed the site at 4 and 5 Wilroy Road for a Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Willard reported all work has been completed in accordance to the Order of Conditions. Charlie Gorss made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance. George Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions Hearing – Mark Saganich, 21 Depot Road, DEP#177-452. Opened at 7:32pm

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing- Jonathan and Judith Williams, 13 Whitman Road, Harvard#207-2. Opened at 7:35pm

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Massachusetts Housing Opportunities Corporation, 262/264 Ayer Road, DEP#177-530, Harvard#1206-2. Opened at 8:02pm

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Jim O'Brien, Lot 102 Prospect Hill Road, DEP#177-533, Harvard#207-1. Opened at 9:00pm

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the hearing at 9:16pm. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Administrative Assistant

Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions
Hearing Meeting Minutes
Mark Saganich, 21 Depot Road, DEP#177-452
March 15, 2007

The public hearing was opened at 7:32pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 S40 and the Harvard Wetlands Bylaw.

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Charlie Gorss, Otto Solbrig and George Watkins

Others Present: Mark Saganich

This hearing was continued from January 18, 2007 on a Request to Amend the Order of Conditions filed on behalf of Mark Saganich for a proposed out building which will serve as a three car a garage with access off the existing driveway within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 21 Depot Road, Harvard.

Mark Saganich has asked that his request to Amend the Order of Conditions be withdrawn. Mr. Saganich has found another location on the lot for the shed outside the buffer zone.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to allow Mark Saganich to withdraw his request to Amend the Order of Conditions, DEP#177-452. George Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Administrative Assistant

Harvard Conservation Commission
Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing Meeting Minutes
Jonathan and Judith Williams, 13 Whitman Road, Harvard#207-2
March 15, 2007

The public hearing was opened at 7:35pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 S40 and the Harvard Wetlands Bylaw.

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Charlie Gorss, Otto Solbrig and George Watkins

Others Present: Jonathan Williams

This hearing is for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed on behalf of Jonathan and Judith Williams for the upgrade of an existing deck area to a sunroom on the existing footings within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 13 Whitman Road, Harvard.

George Watkins and Charlie Gorss were at a site walk that was conducted on March 5, 2007. Mr. Watkins thinks the RDA is valid for the work proposed. There will be no digging on the site. Jonathan Williams explained on the street side of the property they will be adding a new entrance. The members asked to have the dumpster on the upland side of the house, but not on the septic system. Construction debris will be cleaned up on a regular basis.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to close the hearing to issue a Negative #3 Determination with the conditions mentioned above. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Administrative Assistant

Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes
Massachusetts Housing Opportunities Corporation, DEP#177-530, Harvard#1206-2
March 15, 2007

The public hearing was opened at 8:32pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 S40 and the Harvard Wetlands Bylaw.

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Charlie Gorss, Otto Solbrig and George Watkins

Others Present: William McCurdy, Paul Johnson, George Dimakarakos (Stamski & McNary), Donald Provencher (Provencher Engineering), Kathy Fricchione, Stanley Murphy, Brad Taylor, Mike Ivas (MHOC), Meg Bagdonas, Gerry Welch (MHOC) and David Crossman (B&C Associates)

This hearing was continued from March 1, 2007 on a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Massachusetts Housing Opportunities Corporation for the installation of a public water supply well within the bordering vegetated wetland at 262/264 Ayer Road, Harvard.

Paul Willard made mention for the record each Commissioner has received a letter from the abutters expressing concerns in regards to the project. The letter was made part of the record and a copy was given to the proponent.

At the previous hearing the Commission had reviewed the alternatives to the well being located within the bordering vegetated wetland. The plans have been sent to Nitsch Engineering for comments on the alternatives. Comments have been received from Nitsch in regards to drainage report. Nitsch has determined the information within the report is correct. Comments have been received from Board of Health. More soil testing is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 28th.

Paul Willard stated it is obvious to the Commission that Alternative 2 would be preferred, which will reduce some of the concerns with this project. Otto Solbrig still has the same comment as to how would the wetland be protected during the construction of the three wells. George Dimakarakos will develop plans using the Best Management Practices. The stilling basin will be placed as far as away as it can and clearing will be minimized.

An email from the applicant, dated March 8th, had been received, which clarifies some the calculations for the septic and was made part of the record. The installation of the wells in the three locations will not require another filing with the DEP Drinking Water Program. All three wells will be sampled separately and tested. It does add some cost to the permitting and maintaining, but will be beneficial if one well goes down. Jim Breslauer asked if DEP has any comments as to having the detention basin being within the well area. Mr. Dimakarakos stated they did not.

Meg Bagdonas, a resident of the area, asked if the pump test would have any potential of decreasing the water pressure to of other wells in the area. Dan Provencher explained with a project of this magnitude there is more recharge than there will be taking out due to the size of the development. It is not going to cause an impact on surrounding wells, since the residential wells are a fairly good distance away.

Mr. Willard asked if the applicant had thought about designing a constructed wetland within the detention basin to help minimize any safety hazards. Mr. Dimakarakos explained that constructed wetlands are usually designed when ground water is too high for infiltration, which is not the case on this site. Mr. Dimakarakos thinks this site is also too small for that type of structure. Mr. Dimakarakos recommended adding some plantings and vegetation to make it look like a constructed wetland. This would be a positive from wildlife prospective. Mr. Dimakarakos suggested using a wetland seed mix within the basin, which will contain a certain amount of water that will settle in there. A shrub layer will be spread around the edge of the basin. On the outside of the basin a conservation mix could be used.

Mr. Dimakarakos explained street sweeping will be done on a regular bases. The catch basins will be maintained according to the maintenance plan for the association. As previously discussed a Stormceptor will be used to separate suspended solids and oils from the runoff. Sediments and oil are contained to the structure, which will be cleaned out periodically. The applicant is required to remove 80% Total Suspended Solids from the Stormwater. The clean out of the Stormceptor will be part of the maintenance plan for the association. Mr. Breslauer asked what size storm will bring out the over flow. Mr. Dimakarakos stated the system is designed for a one-year storm. Mr. Breslauer asked how you plan for ice dams. Mr. Dimakarakos stated generally when everything is frozen everything is frozen and there is no movement through the system. Addition information in regards to the system can be found in the report by Nitsch Engineering.

Mr. Willard asked what chemicals would be used for snow removal. Mr. Dimakarakos stated typically non-sodium de-icers are used. Wendy Sisson asked if the Stormceptor removed any de-icing agents. Mr. Dimakarakos stated it does not. Mr. Willard asked if there was a personal preference to using salt or sand. Mr. Dimakarakos has no opinion as to which is better.

Mr. Willard stated at this point we need an updated plan detailing the construction of the three test wells outside the wetland. The applicant is planning to submit a separate plan for the rest of the project.

Kathy Fricchione, an abutter to the property, asked how often the Stormceptor will need to be cleaned out. Mr. Dimakarakos explained quarterly inspections will be made within the first year, after that a determination will be made as to how often it would need to be done. Everything pumped out of the catch basins and the detention basin will be taken off site.

Meg Bagdonas asked how we know the cleaning of the basins is taking place. Mr. Dimakarakos stated it can be a requirement that reports are submitted to the Commission, in both the Order of Conditions and the condominium documents. Ms. Bagdonas asked is it her understanding the detention basin will only hold a foot of water after a storm. Mr. Dimakarakos stated yes and that will eventually infiltrate.

With additional information needed in regards to the new well locations, George Watkins made a motion to continue the hearing until April 5, 2007 at 9:00pm. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Administrative Assistant

Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes
Jim O'Brien Lot 102 Prospect Hill Road, DEP#177-533, Harvard#207-1
March 15, 2007

The public hearing was opened at 9:00pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act M.G.L. ch. 131 S40 and the Harvard Wetlands Bylaw.

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Otto Solbrig and George Watkins

Others Present: Terry Gensel (Ross Associates)

This hearing was continued from March 1, 2007 on a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Jim O'Brien for a proposed house within the 100' wetland buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland at Lot 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard.

Site walk was conducted on March 5th, which was uneventful because of the weather. A new site walk was scheduled for April 3, 2007 at 5:00pm.

George Watkins made a motion to continue until April 5, 2007 at 7:30pm. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Administrative Assistant