

DRAFT
HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 21, 2008

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

Members Present: Paul Willard, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Jaye Waldron and George Watkins

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Richard Breyer (Harvard Hillside), Al Combs, Barbara Cocanour Hilton, Paul Bradley, Bruce Leicher (BHPWMC), Heather Valiant (BSC Group), Tom & Nancy Horrall, Jeff Harris, Chris Ashley (BHPWMC) and Bill Johnson (BHPWMC)

Historical Representative

The Commission had been contacted by Jonathan Feist, Chairman of the Historical Commission, with the name of an individual who would like to be the Commission's representative to the Historical Commission. That individual is Rosanne Saalfeld. George Watkins made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Roseanne Saalfeld be appointed to the Historical Commission as the Conservation Commission's representative. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Minutes

George Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2008 as written. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Planning Board Request for Comments

The Commission has received a request for comments from the Planning Board (PB) in regards to an application filed on behalf of Richard & Keyo Russell at 81 Littleton Road for Scenic Road Consent. The Commission commented that any activity within the buffer zone requires a filing. A letter will be sent to the PB in that regard.

ZBA Request for Comments

The Commission has received a request for comments on two applications filed on behalf of Armand and Nicole Bassi for an administrative appeal and a special permit for the renovations to an existing structure. The Commission would like comments sent stating that any activity within the buffer zone shall require a filing and all debris shall be contained to the site. A letter will be sent to the ZBA in that regard.

Certificate of Compliances

Several Certificates of Compliance (COC) had been requested for this meeting. The Conservation Agent has reviewed the sites as necessary and recommended that all COC be issued. The following motions were made in regards to those COC:

George Watkins made a motion to issue the COC for DEP#177-92. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.
Jaye Waldron made a motion to issue a COC for DEP#177-474. George Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.
Don Ritchie made a motion to issue a COC for DEP#177-493. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.
Don Ritchie made a motion to issue a COC for DEP#177-491. George Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Notice of Intent Hearing – Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee, Bare Hill Pond, Harvard#0808-01. Opened at 7:30pm.

Notice of Intent Hearing – National Grid, Oak Hill Road, Woodchuck Hill Road and Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard#0808-03. Opened at 8:00pm.

Potential Land Donation

Paul Willard informed the members that Ted Maxant maybe willing to donate a piece of property he owns on Still River Road to the Commission as open space. This donation would require the removal of the existing structure by the Commission. George Watkins made a motion to allow Paul Willard to investigate demolition cost as well as the legal costs for such activities. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Conservations Agent's Report

The Agent informed the members that she has done several periodic inspections of active permits. DEP#177-537, 110 Warren Avenue, she noted a deviation in the plan in regards to the deck as shown on the plan. The Commission determined this deviation should be noted when an "as-built" plan is submitted.

DEP#177-538, 38 Peninsula Road, the Commission had initial requested a weekly site visit. The Agent requested the weekly visits be changed to monthly. The Commission agreed.

DEP#177-522, 339 Stow Road, the Agent stated fencing has been installed within the buffer zone that is not shown on the approved plan. She requested that the members review the site to determine what action should be taken.

DEP#177-524, 210 Littleton County Road, due to the scope of the work the Agent requested a member of the Commission review the site with her to determine if the work has been conducted in accordance with the plan and Order of Conditions. Don Ritchie will review the site with her next week.

Adjournment

Don Ritchie made a motion to adjourn the hearing at 8:50pm. George Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.
Respectfully submitted, Liz Allard Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission
Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes
Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee
Bare Hill Pond, Harvard#0808-01
August 21, 2008**

The public hearing was opened at by 7:30pm Chairman Paul Willard under the Wetland Protection Act, MGL Chapter 131 §40 and the Code of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 119 the Wetland Protection Bylaw in the Town Hall meeting room

Members Present: Paul Willard, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Jaye Waldron and George Watkins

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Richard Breyer (Harvard Hillside), Al Combs, Barbara Cocanour Hilton, Paul Bradley, Bruce Leicher (BHPWMC), Heater Valiant (BSC Group), Tom & Nancy Horrall, Jeff Harris, Chris Ashley (BHPWMC) and Bill Johnson (BHPWMC)

This hearing is for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee for the draw down of the water level during the winter to kill aquatic weeds in Bare Hill Pond, Harvard.

Bruce Leicher explained to the members that the Annual Report for Bare Hill Pond was previously submitted. The Committee has determined that they will not be conducting a pump draw down this year. The “off year” will be a gravity draw down. George Watkins stated he thought it had been mentioned originally that a year off was a good idea. Mr. Leicher stated the plan is to draw down for two years and take a year off.

Mr. Leicher reported that incremental impact is being seen in some areas. There has been restoration of a lot of the bottom growing plants. The Committee’s concern is with the mussel populations, which have been reduced in the last several years. The density of the milfoil is within the five foot draw down zone, it is there but not growing as high as it previously had been. Paul Willard was concerned with the notion that the deeper draw down would have an affect on the species and to not have a draw down would be confusing to them.

Mr. Leicher stated the previous problems with the pump have been determined to be the capacitors. It is a fixable problem that will be dealt with. Weed pulls have aided in the restoration of the shore lines.

Nancy Horrall, of Bowers Road, stated that this is the first year in 35 years that she has had grasses growing in front portion of her property. Mrs. Horrall wondered if the draw downs were allowing for swamp species to come in and take over. Mr. Leicher stated that the intent of the draw downs was to bring native species back. Bill Johnson explained that the Committee is trying to attack two pollutants, milfoil and excess

phosphorus. Mr. Johnson stated that Mrs. Horrall's question was good and that the Committee could do some research on that. Mr. Willard thinks the draw downs are a work in progress. Tom Horrall stated the water level is very shallow in his area and that there seems to be fewer frogs. Mr. Leicher explained the Committee conducts an annual frog counts in the spring if Mr. Horrall would like to join them. The volunteers have not detected a change in terms of the frog calls.

Jeff Harris read his letter he has submitted to the newspaper. Mr. Harris stated he feels that we have not paid enough attention to the biology that we know. Milfoil does not respond to freezing, but does respond to lack of light. Mr. Harris is also concerned with storm water runoff into the pond. Mr. Johnson stated in terms of storm water runoff, the Committee applied for a grant to fund a very large storm water control project for the town center that would treat the water before it gets to the pond.

The Commission has not received a DEP File Number as of yet. George Watkins made a motion to continue the hearing to September 4, 2008 at 8:00pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, with the exception of Jaye Waldron who abstained due to the fact she is an abutter to Bare Hill Pond.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

Harvard Conservation Commission
Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes
National Grid, Oak Hill Road, Woodchuck Hill Road and Massachusetts Avenue
Harvard#0808-03
August 21, 2008

The public hearing was opened at by 8:00pm Chairman Paul Willard under the Wetland Protection Act, MGL Chapter 131 §40 and the Code of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 119 the Wetland Protection Bylaw in the Town Hall meeting room

Members Present: Paul Willard, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Jaye Waldron and George Watkins

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Richard Breyer (Harvard Hillside), Al Combs, Barbara Cocanour Hilton, Paul Bradley (National Grid) and Heather Valliant (BSC Group)

This hearing is for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of National Grid for the installation of an 8" natural gas main within the roadway layouts with some areas being within the riverfront area and/or in the 100' wetland buffer zone on Oak Hill Road, Woodchuck Hill Road and Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard

Heather Valliant presented the plan for a natural gas main on Oak Hill Road, Woodchuck Hill Road and Massachusetts Avenue to the Commission. Ms. Valliant stated there is an intermittent stream on Oak Hill Road and associated bordering vegetated wetland. Portions of Elizabeth Brook are also within 200' of this project. Trenches would be dug, the pipe would be laid and the trench would be back filled in one day. No materials would be stored over night. Proposing no hay bales and silt fence, instead silt sacks will be placed in all of the drainage system.

Ms. Valliant reviewed the requested waivers which included a waiver to reduce the \$1,500.00 bylaw filing to \$750.00, which would be more in line with the State filing fee. Other waivers include §147-31A(1) in regards to the installation of erosion controls prior to the commencement of work, and §147-15 Setbacks, the 50' no disturb zone and the 100' setback for underground storage of fuels. Ms. Valliant stated erosion controls barriers will be installed in the area of work as the project progresses. George Watkins asked if there were any detail of the erosion controls. Paul Willard explained Harvard's style of erosion control barriers. Personally Mr. Willard did not think that level of protection is needed since this is a cut and fill project. Mr. Willard requested that hay bales to be available on site for any emergency. It was asked how cross drains were going to be dealt with. Paul Bradley, of National Grid stated the plan is to go under the drains without disturbing. Mr. Bradley was asked if there would be any issues with ledge. Mr. Bradley stated he believe there may be some.

Al Combs showed the Commission overview photos of his home on Oak Hill Road and a drain that is on his property that flows to the road. Mr. Combs wants to be certain the pattern of this drain will not be disturbed. Mr. Bradley stated the work should not cause any issues with the drains.

Mr. Watkins asked what the time frame would be for the project. Mr. Bradley stated the work would take potentially two to three months. Don Ritchie requested details of the profile for the Commission's review.

Ms. Valliant concluded that the site will be secure at the end of each work day. In any wetland location the work will be contained to the already paved areas. Ms. Valliant suggested using siltation socks for erosion control barriers with extra hay bales on hand for emergency.

The Commission agreed that they did not want to grant the waiver in regards to the filing fees, but would grant the others requested.

Without a DEP File Number, George Watkins made a motion to continue the hearing to September 4, 2008 at 8:15pm. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent