

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 18, 2008
Approved: October 2, 2008**

Chair Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:04pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Paul Willard, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron and Joshua Gould (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), John & Mary Ann Boynton, Tom Cotton and Richard Breyer (Harvard Hillside)

Minutes

Charlie Gorss made a motion to accept the minutes of September 4, 2008 as written. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Land Use Boards Brochures

Brochures have been prepared to aid in the process when submitting a building permit. The brochures had been reviewed at the Land Use Board meeting last week. Changes from that meeting were incorporated. The members were asked to review and comment on the brochure. The members made comments that will be incorporated into the final brochure.

Cutting at 12 Peninsula Road

John and Mary Ann Boynton, owners of 12 Peninsula Road, were present to discuss the tree cutting that took place on their property last week. Mrs. Boynton stated the trees were cut by High Quality Landscaping and she would get contact information to the Commission. Paul Willard asked if they are planning any more of tree cutting. There was one more pine tree that they wanted to cut. Both Mr. Willard and Charlie Gorss have visited the site. Mr. Willard does not see any harm in what was done. Members asked what the plans are with the remaining stumps. Mrs. Boynton stated they were going to have the stumps ground. The Commission would not want the stumps ground. Mrs. Boynton stated the area is well vegetated with low ground cover. Mr. Gorss stated that the activity did not look like a serious impact on the land.

Liz Allard questioned what the difference between this activity and 38 Peninsula Road was. The Commission believes the cutting at 38 Peninsula Road had a great impact to the canopy and the pond it self. Ms. Allard reminded the members that there is a wetland directly across the street from the activity. Mr. Willard suggests leaving the stumps just as they are and the Commission can visit the next year to see what reestablishes itself. The area may be difficult to replant trees in. A site visit was scheduled. Mrs. Boynton asked about dead trees, could they be removed. The Commission stated if they are not a safety hazard we like to leave them where they are. The Commission will allow the

Boyntons to cut up the remaining logs for fire wood, by hand only, there is to be no heavy equipment. The Commission will discuss at the next meeting what action to take.

Review Proposal by Nick Holland for Dean's Hill

Tom Cotton, of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee (LSS), was present to discuss the proposal submitted by Nick Holland for a baseline study of Dean's Hill. The baseline study documents the bounds of the property, topography and notes things of interest. This is not a survey of the property. Paul Willard stated essentially he is only going to document what is on the ground. Mr. Cotton stated that Mr. Holland does do management plans, but that is not what this proposal was for. However, the LSS has gotten a proposal for that area and the connecting areas for \$2,500 not to exceed \$7,500. The management plan would not be a timber harvest plan. The Commission will need to determine if the site assessment is useable for the Conservation Restriction.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the baseline documentation contract. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve a site plan assessment. Jaye Waldron seconded it. Motion passed. Jim Breslauer made a motion to authorize the Chairman to negotiate with Nick Holland to see if both the baseline study and the site plan assessment could be completed for less than the \$7500 and if so to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract for that lesser amount. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Conservation Restriction

Charlie Gorss stated he has downloaded the Conservation Restriction requirements and they seem to be very complicated. Mr. Gorss suggested at this point the Commission should hire someone to do the Conservation Restrictions. Jim Breslauer made a motion to allocate funds for the purpose of completing outstanding Conservation Restrictions. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Review Amendments to Chapter 147 Wetland Protection Bylaw Rules

Jim Breslauer informed the members that an enforcement section was added as suggested by Liz Allard. It was noted that the resource area as described in the Bylaw and the regulations needs to be clarified. Mr. Breslauer asked that the members review the regulations for any changes prior to the next meeting.

Executive Session

Don Ritchie made a motion to go into executive session to consider the purchase of real property only to adjourn the meeting. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. Chairman Paul Willard took a roll call. The vote was unanimously in favor 6-0.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Allard Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent