

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2009
Approved: November 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, Don Ritchie, Charlie Gorss, Jim Breslauer and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Cindy Wu and Alan Zhong

Approval of Minutes

Wendy Sisson made a motion to accept the minutes of September 17, 2009 as amended. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discuss Request to Amend Order of Conditions – Kavanagh, 339 Stow Road, DEP#177-522

Liz Allard explained to the members that a request has been received from Paul and Hillary Kavanagh to amend the Order of Conditions in regards to the mowing within the buffer zone of the existing pond on their property. There was no plan showing the actual area submitted with the request, but one would be provided should the Commission decide to allow an amendment. Jim Breslauer read from Chapter 147-32 in which a plan is required in order for the Commission to determine whether or not the Order can be amended or a new Notice of Intent would be required. The Commission agreed that they would like to see a plan before making any decisions. Mrs. Allard will inform the Kavanagh of this and request the information for the next meeting.

Lyme Disease

Wendy Sisson has recently spoken with an individual from the Littleton Conservation Commission who suggested forums such as the one the Board of Health (BOH) is holding next week in regards to Lyme disease and its prevention. The BOH is holding a forum on Thursday October 22, 2009 in Volunteers Hall at the Library.

Wet Meadows

Wendy Sisson would like to further explore some type of policy on the mowing of wet meadows. Mowing during April and May would be terrible for ground nesting birds. Ms. Sisson stated in the past it has been left to common sense, but recently it seems as if there has been no care taken when mowing is done and its effect on wildlife and the habitat.

Stormwater Management Bylaw

Jim Breslauer has reviewed the Storm Water Management Bylaw from Boxford. Mr. Breslauer stated it seems as if Harvard is already doing most of what is recommended,

but it does not hurt to have an extra layer of protection. The Bylaw as written only applies to a project that disturbs more than acre of land. Liz Allard will send an email out on Mass Planners to obtain additional Bylaws and Regulations for review.

Discuss Request to Extend Expiration Date of Order of Conditions – Zhong, 210 Littleton County Road, DEP#177-524

Alan Zhong and Cindy Wu were present to discuss the possibility of extending the Order of Conditions beyond November 19, 2009 as allowed at the previous meeting. The site still needs the installation of the guardrail and the granite posts. Mr. Zhong stated once the work is done an engineer will come in to do the as-built. Jim Breslauer said that something unforeseeable could happen and allowing another month would cover any incidentals. Wendy Sisson made a motion to extend the Order to December 19, 2009. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Community Preservation Committee Meeting

Liz Allard reminded the members that the Community Preservation Committee is meeting on October 22, 2009 and has asked that a member of Conservation Commission attend so that they may discuss the CPC application submitted by the Commission for funding in FY11. Paul Willard will attend the meeting.

Year End Round Up

- Open Space & Recreation Plan – Liz Allard explained that the inventory list has been updated as requested by the State and that she still needs to provide the funding sources within the Five Year Action Plan. Jim Breslauer is still working on the ADA requirements.
- Dean's Hill Conservation Restriction – Wendy Sisson stated she has spoken with George Watkins and he is working on the restriction and should have a draft by the next meeting
- Land Stewardship Subcommittee – The Commission requested that the standard meeting be suspended until further notice so that it will no longer be stated in the newspaper as a monthly meeting. No decision was made as to the future of the subcommittee.
- Land Use Book – Liz Allard stated that she and Dottie Richard have been making progress on updating the book, but there is still a large amount of information that needs to be determined. Paul Willard stated he would have more time to help out with this project.
- No Dumping Sign at Reservoir on Bolton Road – Paul Willard will follow up with the Highway Department
- Herman Orchard Removal of Apple Trees – Paul Willard stated that once Chris Green has finished the harvest this year he will go in to do the research work and come up with a feasible plan as to how it could be done.

Stow Road Pond

Liz Allard informed the members that she received an email from an abutter to 339 Stow Road stating that the State was out taking pictures of the pond. The members were concerned that there may be issues with this pond and would like to know why the State

was there. Mrs. Allard will follow up with the Department of Environmental Protection to see if they know anything about this activity.

Request by Westchester Corporation Old Mill Road

The Commission received a letter from Steve Marsh of the Westchester Company requesting that the requirement of installing granite markers along the 100' buffer zone line be waived. Liz Allard explained that she has confirmed with the Department of Environmental Protection that since this requirement was issued under a Determination of Applicability that there is no enforcement action available.

Invasive Species

Wendy Sisson attended a function today and is recommending the Conservation Commission become a member of Sudbury Assabet Concord River (SuAsCo) Watershed Community Council Species Management Area. In order to join the Commission would have to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. A portion of the SuAsCo watershed is within Harvard. Jim Breslauer wanted to know what it would cost and how could it restrict us. Ms. Sission stated there is no cost and she can not see any restrictions. The Commission agreed to join.

Extension Permit – Kavanagh, 339 Stow Road, DEP#177-522

With the recent request to amend the Order of Conditions and the expiration date fast approaching Paul and Hillary Kavanagh have requested that the Order of Conditions, DEP#177-522, be extended for one year. Don Ritchie made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions for one year. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

Don Ritchie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent