

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 18, 2010
Approved: March 4, 2010**

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

Members Present: Paul Willard, Charlie Gorss, Jaye Waldron and Patrick Doherty

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Tom Cotton (Bare Hill Rowing Association) and Matt Little

Update from the Bare Hill Rowing Association – Rock Removal on Bare Hill Pond

Tom Cotton was present to discuss the continuing process of removing large rocks from the pond. Mr. Cotton explained that progress is being made slowly. Three rocks at the beach area have been leveled within 3-4” of the current ice level. Four rocks around Minister Island have been leveled as well. The next set of rocks to be worked on are the ones way out in the middle of the pond. These rocks are much larger and will need a pneumatic drill, which would require a compressor. Mr. Cotton wanted to know what the Association would need to do to bring a large compressor on the ice. Mr. Cotton stated the weather is starting to warm up and the water is rising, so maybe they will need to wait until next year to complete the project.

Paul Willard stated he could not imagine any problem that could not be addressed with a trap, kitty litter, and shovel to contain any failure that may happen with the compressor. That would make Mr. Willard comfortable, but he is concerned about access to the locations at this time of year. Jaye Waldron stated that when the Commission discussed the use of a compressor before former member Josh Gould had noted oil may leak out of the equipment. Mr. Willard stated that was what the extra equipment would be for. The members agreed that Mr. Cotton could try the process of using a pneumatic drill this year if ice allows and if not next year. Mr. Willard suggested using a snow mobile or all-terrain-vehicle to tow out the compressor. Patrick Doherty does not want the Commission to be responsible for an untimely death. Mr. Willard stated they are working at their own risk. The Commission does not think this is creating any additional threats to the environment that could not be created by a boat on the pond.

Request to Amend the Order of Conditions – Little, 10 Madigan Lane

Matt Little was present to request an amendment to the Order of Conditions from the Commission as a de minimus change. Mr. Little would like to bury the existing utility lines. Mr. Little believes that the line would go around the septic system. Mr. Little explained that the silt fence would be extended around the utility pole to allow for a conduit. Paul Willard stated he does not have a problem with this as a de minimus change with the change drawn onto the plan for the file. Mr. Little will amend the plan to include this and the plantings as required by the Order of Conditions.

Jaye Waldron made a motion to allow Matt Little of 10 Madigan Lane to include work required to install underground utilities as part of the previously issue Order of Conditions, DEP#177-569, as a de minimus change. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Review and Discuss Snowmobile Trails Recent Activities

Charlie Gorss stated he has walked the trail from Littleton Road to Oak Hill Road and found no destruction to the vegetation, but people using the trail are pushing their luck. Mr. Gorss submitted photos showing areas in which trails do not have sufficient snow cover, but yet are still being used. Paul Willard stated the Commission may need to reexamine the minimum snow depths in which the trails are allowed to be used. Patrick Doherty stated he and his wife walk the Holy Hill area every day, and find it difficult to determine what is wearing down the trail as that area is a heavily used trail. Wendy Sisson was unable to attend the meeting this evening, but had sent an email that was read into the record (see Attachment A). Mr. Willard will invite Tony Shaw of the Snowmobile Club to the next meeting to discuss further any issues the Commission may have.

Approval of Minutes

Patrick Doherty made a motion to accept the minutes of February 4, 2010 as amended. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Planning Board Request for Comments – Verizon Wireless, Brown Road

Liz Allard explained to the members that an application had been received by the Planning Board for the renewal of a Special Permit filed on behalf of Verizon Wireless on Brown Road. The only change being made to the existing tower is the changing of antennas. There will be no disturbance to the ground or substantial changes to the appearance of the existing tower. The Commission members agreed that they had no comments in regards to this application as presented. A letter to that regard will be sent to the Planning Board.

Request for an Extension of the Order of Conditions – Lizotte, 46 Prospect Hill Rd

Liz Allard informed the members that a Request to Extend the Order of Conditions was received from Kevin Lizotte, for his project at 46 Prospect Hill Road, DEP#177-533. The project recently got under way but will not be completed by the expiration of the Order. Charlie Gorss made a motion to issue a one year extension to Kevin Lizotte, 46 Prospect Hill Road, DEP#177-533. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Deans Hill Conservation Restriction

Liz Allard informed the members that the draft Conservation Restriction for the Deans Hill property has been reviewed by Town Counsel and is now ready to be signed. Patrick Doherty made a motion to accept the Deans Hill Conservation Restriction as written for submittal for approval to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs once signed by the Harvard Conservation Trust and the Board of Selectmen. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

Charlie Gorss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Patrick Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

ATTACHMENT A

From: Margaret Sisson [msisson@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 3:36 PM
To: liz
Subject: won't be at 2/18 mtg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Hi Liz,

Won't be there Thursday night, so, regarding the snowmobile trail discussion...

From what I've seen, the snowmobile trail system seems to be working pretty well overall. Things to consider:

- Concom should be consulted before stonewalls are altered or major trail improvements (in addition to bridges) are carried out on concom land.
- Steep spots tend to have less snow cover and get badly eroded, even when most of the trail is snow covered. If the trail can not be rerouted to avoid steep terrain, what can we do to protect these few places?
- Pond access points should be reviewed with concom and kept to a minimum. (People fan out and go off trail.) The edge of the pond can be bare of snow when the most of the trail is usable, making vegetation vulnerable at access points.
- Are any parts of the pond off-limits? Should the map note known springs/places where ice may be thinner?
- Conditions can be unsuitable at any point in the season. Is there a mechanism in place for notifying the club membership when the trail, or portions of it, should not be used. (email, signs at entry points, detours at trail branches) Is there supervision/enforcement of good practices and rules or staying off when necessary? Should club members be informed about pond refill or pond ice safety?
- Is there a cap on the number of members in the club? If not, I think there should be. Non-snowmobiling townspeople and trail abutters that I have spoken with are tolerant of the trail at moderate levels of use, but would not want traffic to increase. If there is/were a cap, do Harvard residents get preference?
- Does concom have a copy of the handsome new trail map and rules posted at trail intersections? It would be good for concom to have a map with points where these maps are posted indicated. Is there a map at public safety office in case of accident or other reports? Do we have a system for receiving and addressing reports of problems regarding the trail or snowmobiles?

Wendy