

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 1, 2010
Approved: April 15, 2010**

Vice Chair Wendy Sisson called the meeting to order at 7:08pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss, Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer, Jaye Waldron and Patrick Doherty

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Bill Johnson (BHPWMC), Rich Nota (DPW), Jeff Richards (Transformations, Inc.), Jeff Ritter (BHPWMC), Michele Girard, George Watkins, Phil Knoettner and Jim DeZutter

Trail Maintenance – Holy Hill Conservation Land

Phil Knoettner was present to discuss with the Commission work that is needed on the trail at Holy Hill as well as repairs to the fencing around the Dancing Ground. Mr. Knoettner stated that he is planning a clean up day at the Dancing Ground for May 23rd. Mr. Knoettner is seeking the permission of the Commission to obtain lumber at Moore's to fix the fence. Mr. Knoettner further stated he has senior citizens under the tax work off program and seniors at the high school looking for community service, which he is willing to over see their work. Don Ritchie volunteered to clear the downed trees from the area. It will need to be determined if the paint is lead before work begins on the fence.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to authorize Phil Knoettner to obtain the materials not to exceed \$150 and to conduct and oversee the work to be done at the Dancing Ground at Holy Hill. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion. Mr. Knoettner was asked to contact Jonathan Feist about historical reference to the fence.

Approval of Minutes

Jaye Waldron made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2010 as amended. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Committee Update – Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee

Jaye Waldron attended the March 24th meeting of the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Committee. The Committee discussed frog counts, the grant for the Stormwater Management project and the recently issued Enforcement Order from the Commission. The Committee also discussed the sale of the peat removed from the pond. Ms. Waldron stated she has volunteered to help the Committee with community outreach for abutters on the pond about phosphorus loading. Mrs. Waldron stated she informed the Committee that it would be good to have the Commission involved in this outreach as well.

**Notice of Intent Hearing – Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee,
Pond Road & Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard#0310-01. Opened at 7:34pm**

Review Proposed Plan -Transformations, Inc., Stow Road, DEP#177-568

Jeff Richards was present to explain the proposed plan to access the site to continue the well testing. Mr. Richard stated no more material will be brought in to stabilize the base. Wendy Sisson asked about the timing of this activity. The Commission wants the area to dry more before the work is to proceed. The Commission is agreeable to the work taking place as soon as the conditions are more suitable. Currently it is too wet for any activity. The procedure as detailed in the letter dated March 29, 2010 is acceptable to the Commission. Mr. Richard was asked to contact the office for approval to access the site during both testing rounds.

Adjournment

Charlie Gorss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm. Jim Breslauer 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
Pond Road & Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard#0310-01
April 1, 2010**

The public hearing was opened at 7:34pm by Vice Chair Wendy Sisson under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 §40 and the Harvard Wetland Bylaw, Code of the Town of Harvard, Chapter 119 in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Wendy Sisson, Don Ritchie, Charlie Gorss, Jaye Waldron, Jim Breslauer and Patrick Doherty

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Bill Johnson, Rich Nota, George Watkins, Jim DeZutter, Michele Girard and Jeff Ritter

This hearing is for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of the Bare Hill Pond Committee for the construction of stormwater management facilities at six sites to treat stormwater runoff into Bare Hill Pond with some facilities within the 100' wetland buffer zones on Pond Road and Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard.

Jim DeZutter, a member of St. Theresa's, asked if any improvements would be made behind the church. Bill Johnson explained that the original plan had a system behind the church but the area of Town owned land was not suitable to the type of system required and has been since removed from the plan.

Mr. Johnson explained the project is for six intervention sites for stormwater management. Mr. Johnson added this is a retro-fit project and not a new development. Jaye Waldron asked about how this is retro-fit. Mr. Johnson explained stormwater is currently collected and directed into the pond with no treatment aspect to it, whereas after this project is complete that water will now be treated rather than just collected. Liz Allard had sent comments and questions to Mr. Johnson earlier in the day and responses have been prepared for this evening. Patrick Doherty asked about funding for this project. Mr. Johnson explained the funding process. Mr. Doherty asked if any terms of the funding address the issues of quality and quantity. Mr. Johnson stated there are stipulations with the State for plans and permits, which are required to get reimbursed.

Mrs. Allard explained that her reasoning for being detail-orientated on this project was to be able to on future projects use this site as an example on how systems should be constructed and maintained. Michele Girard asked why the Commission is concerned about quantity. Mrs. Allard stated to avoid illicit tie-ins into the system in the future. Appendix A shows the pollutant load calculations. The drainage areas calculated are in this appendix as well. Jim Breslauer asked about snow storage. Mr. Johnson stated that all of the systems have been designed away from the road with the exception of one that has barriers to keep it from being filled with snow during the winter months. Mr. Johnson stated that quantity can not be determined since this is not a development project

with the creation of additional impervious surface. The designs areas used numbers based on a model used to estimate flow in the different drainage areas assuming a one-inch rain event; the quantity was not measured directly. Quality however can be established and determined and will be a condition of the Order.

In regards to the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan, the one with in the plan set is not detailed enough. The Commission agreed that a more detailed plan needs to be drafted and reviewed as part of the Order before the work is completed. Mr. Johnson stated the Committee is required to submit such a plan as part of the grant requirements by June 2011; he has no issues with this being a condition of the Order.

The systems contain no shut off controls in the event of an emergency spill. Rich Nota believes the systems would however work well to aid in the containment of any hazardous materials, should an event occur. Mr. Nota has obtained the operating manual for the existing equipment at BHP-2 and will follow up with maintenance of that system.

The systems will be located within a Zone 1 and will implement Best Management Practices. Mr. Breslauer asked again about the snow storage and would this not be the creation of a point source discharge when snow is stock piled. Mr. Nota stated that it would, however under current conditions the stored snow is not being treated, where as once the project is complete the snow will be treated, thus creating a better situation.

The changes from the Horsley & Witten report and the final plan were made due to constraints with areas, such as BHP-3, the Bromfield School Ball field. Adjustments to that system had to be made to accommodate the existing use of the ball field. The existing catch basins 2 & 3 shown on the plan for BHP-4 will remain as is, which is not tied into the system but flows directly to the adjacent wetland. Wendy Sission asked if there was any way to tie them into the system as there are a lot of nutrients from the ball field. Mr. Johnson stated that Horsley & Witten determined that the existing catch basins are not functioning properly and that what little water is collected through them is clean. The only way to resolve that solution would be to re-do the entire drainage system under the ball field. The change of BHP-5 from a rain garden to dry swale was done due to its proximity to the ball field and the possible obstruction of viewing games.

BHP-4 requires the use of an access road that will require the placement of gravel on that road. Mr. Nota does not feel much gravel will be required as the area is relatively flat. Ms. Sission stated if the work is completed during a dry period then there should not be any issues. A condition can be added that the work in this area is to be completed in the summer. Erosion control barriers will be added to BHP-4 on the wetland side of the system where the detail changes from both hay bales and erosion control to just hay bales.

Mr. Johnson stated a Stormwater Report was not necessary for this project. Information in regards to the Standards for Stormwater Management was received. The Horsley Witten Report dated June 2, 2008 was submitted as part of the record. The Commission stated they prefer the use of silt socks rather than hay bales. Mr. Breslauer asked about

the staging area for BHP-4 and its proximity to the wetland; the stock pile of material in this area would be a concern should there be a rain event during construction. The entire construction area will be contained with erosions controls. The Commission agreed that if materials are to be left more than a week materials will be covered.

Mr. Johnson reviewed each of the system locations as shown on the plans.

BHP-2 Bromfield School Detention Pond is designed to modify the existing structure that had been installed with the renovations to the high school a number of years ago. The outlet structure will be reduced in size and sediment forebay will be added to help maintain the system. Concrete bollards will be installed around the system to restrict snow and other unwanted items from entering the system.

BHP-3 Bromfield School Ball Field will be the installation of a gravel wetland along the first base line of the ball field. A dry swale at the base of the lower parking lot for the library slope that will allow water to settle and then drain to a sediment forebay then to the gravel wetland. This system will be constructed in an area designated as a protected habitat. A response has been received from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program, stating that the work will not adversely affect the habitats used in that area.

BHP – 4 Pond Road Drainage will require the installation of a diversion manhole on Pond Road just southwest from the catchbasin at the intersections of Warren Avenue and Pond Road. This deviation manhole will direct runoff from a one-inch storm event into an oil/grit separator for pretreatment before flowing into a dry swale along the southern end of the ball field. Stormwater will enter the dry swale at up to 10 different locations via a manifold to help diffuse the runoff and distribute it across the larger length of the swale.

BHP-5 Elementary School Ball Field includes a dry swale along the existing stone wall northwest of the playing field and north of the school driveway.

BHP-6 Bromfield School Entrance is a linear bioretention area along the north side of the school entrance road. An existing culvert under the entrance road will remain. Stormwater will be conveyed via a grass swale along the edge of the ball field in the south side of the entrance to an existing discharge point along the rock wall.

BHP-7 Town Beach Parking contains a grass swale to pre-treat and direct runoff from Pond Road and the parking area into a bioretention system.

BHP-8 Town Beach Landing is detailed on the plan, but the Committee has decided to hold off on its construction for the time being.

The time line for construction of these systems is as follows: BHP-2 between September 1 and October 1, 2010, BHP- 3, 4 & 5 between June 15 and August 15, 2010, BHP-6 between July 5 and August 15, 2010 and BHP-7 between October 15 and November 15, 2010.

With comments not yet received from the Department of Environmental Protection, Jim Breslauer made a motion to continue the hearing to April 15, 2010 at 7:30pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent