

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2011
APPROVED: March 3, 2011**

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

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss and Janet Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Warren Henderson, Jeff Richards (Transformations, Inc.), Bruce Leicher, Cindy Femino, Sally Carrona and Mark Archambault (Nashua River Watershed Association)

‘Low Impact Development: A Better Way to Work in the Landscape’

Mark Archambault, of Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA), presented the above titled workshop for the Commission and others present. (See Attachment A for additional information)

Approval of Minutes

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the January 20, 2011 minutes as amended. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee Update

Jaye Waldron stated that the Committee is attending the February 14th meeting of the Commission along with Wendy Gendron to discuss the review of the draw down data. Ms. Waldron stated that the Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) was a big part of the discussion at the Committee meeting. It was suggested that if the Commission would review the GEIR they would not have an issue with the process. Ms. Waldron explained to the Committee that the concern the Commission has is that the Department of Environmental Protection may have a procedure, but is that procedure being followed and is the data showing an effective draw down. Once again it was stated that the Commission would like an individual (consulting Biologist/Limnologist) to look at the data with clear eyes, meaning someone who has had no involvement at all with the draw down process. Ms. Waldron added that the Committee stated that the GEIR over rules the Commission on draw downs. Paul Willard stated that may be true; however there is still the Wetland Protection Bylaw to contend with.

Ms. Waldron stated that the Committee also approved the use of funds for the development of a plan by Horsley Witten for the proposed dredging project of the swimming area. The Commission looks forward to that proposal.

Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Transformations, Inc., Stow Road (Map 36 Parcel 85 & 86.1), DEP#177-586, Harvard#1010-01. Opened at 8:32pm

Appointment to the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee

Liz Allard stated that Jim Saalfield of the Harvard Conservation Trust has volunteered to be the representative from the Trust to the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee. With that said, Wendy Sisson made a motion to appoint Jim Saalfield to the Open Space & Recreation Plan Implementation Committee. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discuss Floodplain District Bylaw

Liz Allard explained that she had recently been contacted by Chris Markesich who is the Flood Hazard Mapping Coordinator for the Commonwealth. Mr. Markesich stated that in order to remain in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program the Town would need to adopt a Floodplain District(s) Bylaw. Ms. Allard had previously discussed this Bylaw, which would be a zoning bylaw, with the Planning Board, who requested input from the Commission. Those present were in agreement that the Commission would be willing to aid the Planning Board in seeking a Floodplain District(s) Bylaw at this year's Annual Town Meeting.

In regards to the Discovery Meeting scheduled for Monday February 7th, Wendy Sisson suggested that the Town be represented at this meeting. The members agreed that it should be recommended to the Board of Selectmen that, Highway Director Rich Nota attend on behalf of the Town.

Review and Discuss Tree Cutting Policy

Liz Allard has not developed the form for the review of sites for tree removal as requested at the previous meeting. Jim Breslauer is not present to present his recommended changes to the policy as previously drafted. This item will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Charlie Gorss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

Harvard Conservation Commission
Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes
Transformations, Inc., Stow Road (Map 36 Parcel 85 & 86.1),
DEP#177-586, Harvard#1010-01
January 31, 2011

The public hearing was opened at 8:32pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 131 §40 in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss and Janet Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Jeff Richards (Transformation, Inc.)

This hearing was continued from January 20, 2011 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Transformations, Inc. for the construction of a roadway, 17 residential buildings, septic system and public water supply source within the 100' wetland buffer zone, to include the installation of a new culvert along an intermittent stream

Jeff Richards, of Transformations, Inc., was present and explained to the Commission that a response has been sent to Nitsch Engineering in regards to their initial review of the project. However, that information was not delivered in an appropriate amount of time for Nitsch to respond by this evening. Mr. Richards had earlier submitted a written request to continue the hearing this evening until the February 14th meeting.

Mr. Richards also requested that a technical staff level meeting be set up to be able to review the Stormwater Management handbook requirements, between Transformations Engineers and Nitsch Engineering. Wendy Sisson stated that she was not comfortable with that, that if Transformations or their representatives have questions then they may contact Nitsch directly. Ms. Sisson feels if such a meeting were to take place then it should be done at a time when Commission members could be in attendance. Paul Willard asked how much work would be required. Mr. Richards sees it as a working session of the methodology used to obtain the final numbers. Members agreed that a meeting would not be necessary and that all questions Transformations may have can be directed to Nitsch Engineering.

With no further information available this evening Wendy Sisson made a motion to continue the hearing to February 14, 2011 at 8:00pm in the Hildreth House. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

ATTCAHEMENT A

**‘Low Impact Development:
A Better Way to Work
in the Landscape’**

**A workshop for Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions,
Developers and the General Public**

Harvard Conservation Commission Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, January 31

Harvard Town Hall
13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA

The Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) is offering a workshop on Low Impact Development (LID) design and stormwater techniques geared towards municipal board members and the general public at 7:00 pm on **Monday, January 31** at the **Harvard Town Hall**. This workshop will take place at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Harvard Conservation Commission.

Mark Archambault, Smart Growth Circuit Rider at the Nashua River Watershed Association, will be speaking on why low-impact development is a better development strategy at both large and small scales, the varieties and effectiveness of small-scale LID stormwater techniques, and how towns can adopt bylaws and regulations to promote LID. The full workshop agenda is on the back of this flyer. A question and answer period will follow his presentation.

Please share this invitation with anyone who may be interested in attending. The meeting is open to the public and the presentation is free.

Who should attend? Members of Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Zoning Boards of Appeals, Building Inspectors, Municipal Staff and the General Public

For more information please contact:

Mark Archambault, NRWA, at (978) 448-0299

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- I. The ‘WHY’ of Low Impact Development (LID)
 - A. The downsides of conventional, ‘high-impact’ development
 - B. The upsides of low impact development, both large-scale (open space design) and small-scale (stormwater)
 - C. The key principles of low impact development
 - D. Brief history and status of LID to date

- II. The ‘HOW’ of Low Impact Development
 - A. Features of open space residential design and ‘better site design’
 - B. Circumstances conducive to LID stormwater approaches
 - C. LID techniques for managing stormwater
 - D. Performance and benefits of various LID stormwater practices as compared to conventional stormwater management techniques

- III. Practicing LID at the Local Level
 - A. Getting LID into local bylaws and regulations
 - B. Educating local developers and engineers on LID
 - C. LID information resources

Discussion and question and answer period

Workshop materials to include:

- Handouts of the PowerPoint presentation
- Photocopies of useful information from HUD document, “*The Practice of Low Impact Development*”
- Model LID bylaw and regulations
- List of information resources

DOCUMENTS & OTHER EXHIBITS

‘Low Impact Development: A Better Way to Work in the Landscape’

- Power Point Presentation, Mark Archambault, Nashua River Watershed Association
- Table 3: Residential Alternative Stormwater Management Selection Matrix & Table 4: Appropriate plants to use in a rain garden
- The Practice of Low Impact Development - U.S. Department of housing Urban Development: NAHB Research Center, Inc. Upper Marlboro, Maryland Contract No. H-21314CA, July 2003
- Groton, Massachusetts Stormwater Design Criteria Adopted by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee on April 1, 2008
- Cost of LID Practices compared to Conventional Approaches