

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 20, 2011
APPROVED: November 17, 2011**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:05pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Paul Willard, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss, Jim Breslauer, Jaye Waldron and Patrick Doherty

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Marty Green (Harvard Press)

Approve Minutes

Don Ritchie made a motion to approve the minutes of March 17, April 21, May 5, August 4, August 18, September 1, September 22 and October 6, 2011 as amended. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Community Preservation Committee Application – Invasive Species Control Proposal

Wendy Sisson informed the members that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will hear the Commissions proposal for funding for invasive species control November 16th at Hildreth House at 7:15pm. Ms. Sisson has done field work to obtain an estimate of cost for this project. Ms. Sisson stated that the Clapp/Scorgie area has Black Swallow Wart on it that has moved into the new section of the cleared cemetery. Ms. Sisson suggested contacting the Cemetery Commission to see if they would like to have that taken care of when the Conservation Land is completed. There is a large concentration of Barberry in the Clapp/Scorgie area as well.

In regards to the control of invasive species around Town, Ms. Sisson wondered if the mound of knotweed growing on Lou Russo's property across from the Dunkin Donuts could be removed. Additionally, public education of invasive species will need to be undertaken. Ms. Sisson stated that the use of pesticides is necessary for the control of some species. Residents may also have a negative effect to the use of a brontosaurus, however there no gentler method that can be used. Ms. Sisson would like to add the Herman Orchard to the list consideration of funding; she has spoken to someone who has done work to clear an orchard in Pepperell. Ms. Sisson encouraged anyone who is available to attend the meeting on the 16th to do so in support of the request for funding from the CPC.

Master Plan Steering Committee Update

Jim Breslauer stated the Master Plan Steering Committee is diligently working on Phase I of updating the existing Master Plan. The League of Woman Voters is hosting a meeting next Thursday, October 27th in Volunteer's Hall. The MPSC has hired a consultant and is in the process for planning public meetings and focus groups.

Request to Appropriate Funds for Updated Plant List of Massachusetts

Wendy Sisson is requesting the appropriation of \$25.00 for the purchase of "Vascular Plants of Massachusetts" from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. Jim Breslauer made a motion to appropriate said funds. Patrick Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Review and Approve Letter to be distributed with Wetland Brochure

Wendy Sisson explained that she has been composing the letter. It has been conveyed to her that early spring is a good time of year to receive this brochure. Commission agreed that it would be better to send the brochure in the spring. Ms. Sisson will continue to compose the letter for final approval by the Commission prior to its release in the spring of 2012.

Emergency Certifications – Ryan Playing Field & 20 Warren Avenue

Liz Allard explained that the Commission issued two Emergency Certificates this week. The first is for the breaching of the beaver dam on the Ryan Playing fields on Depot Road. Beavers have returned to the area and causing flooding that potentially could cause damage to an existing well in the area. The same conditions imposed in the Emergency Certificate (EC) that was issued this past spring have been placed in the current EC. The second EC was issued to Terrence Holt at 20 Warren Avenue for the removal of a maple tree within the buffer zone of a resource area. Mr. Holt will be filing a Request for Determination for Applicability after the fact within the next few weeks.

Follow-up to a Determination of Applicability – Donaldson, 26 Willow Road, Harvard#0911-01

As required by the Determination of Applicability conditions issued to Robert Donaldson for the removal of trees for the installation of solar array panels on his home at 26 Willow Road, a letter had been received from New England Breeze stating that the removal of all but perhaps one tree would be necessary for the panels to function at their full capacity. The Commission agreed that Mr. Donaldson would be allowed to remove the number of trees requested within the application.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

*******NOTE*******

No Documents or other exhibits were used during this meeting