

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2011
APPROVAL: March 1, 2012**

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, Don Ritchie, Jim Breslauer and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Tony Shaw (Harvard Snowmobile Club) and Joe Gibbons

Master Plan Steering Committee Update

Jim Breslauer reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee would be holding their first forum this Saturday at the old library. Mr. Breslauer encouraged the members to attend this vital meeting that will help shape Harvard's future.

Annual Review of Policies and Guidelines with Harvard Snowmobile Club

Tony Shaw and Joe Gibbons were present to discuss with the Commission the policies and guidelines for snowmobiles on Harvard Trails for the upcoming season. Mr. Shaw stated the club has been working on clearing the trails after the October snow storm. The club will mow Dean's Hill this weekend. Signage that directs riders will go up after December 1st. The club has new trail signs that will be placed at trail junctions. Mr. Shaw asked if the club could place a picnic table on Dean's Hill. The Commission stated that as long as the table and any associated trash is removed from the site at the end of the season that it would be okay.

Mr. Shaw stated the Clapp/Scorgie area off Still River Road is very wet and the club will be installing a new boardwalk in December. The new Small Nature trail has had a new solution that is much better. On that subject matter, it was stated that the work done to that trail was not approved by the Commission and work in and around wetland areas would need approval from the Commission prior to the activity. There may be different ways to complete the task and some times there are better solutions than the ones originally designed. The boardwalks on the Maxant trail tends to end up down stream and create a dam. The club is trying to figure out a way to move them and then reinstalling in a way they will anchor them in to avoid this happening again.

Mr. Shaw noted that last year the Commission asked that the direction sign be moved to the playing field parking area on Ann Lee Road, last winter the Department of Public Works (DPW) did not plow that lot consistently. The club is requesting that the directional sign be relocated back to the Holy Hill parking area. Wendy Sisson stated that there is a conflict with that parking area and the Commission would like to avoid that area for that type of use. The Commission will attempt to speak with the DPW again about keeping the Ann Lee Road parking area clear.

The removal of signs at the end of the season was discussed. The Commission requested the installation of "slow" signs in the Holy Hill area. Mr. Shaw was agreeable to that request. Additionally, Mr. Shaw stated that the club will be changing the pallet bridges over to actual bridges; those include pallets on the trails from Willard Lane to West Bare Hill Road, Prospect Hill to Madigan Lane, and at the bottom of Fruitlands.

As a final note, Mr. Shaw stated he had recently attended a trail workshop which they discussed trail easements. Mr. Shaw is aware of recent talks with the Jean McCurdy on the corner of Littleton Road and Pinnacle Road as a potential Conservation Restriction purchase. Should talks resume with Ms. McCurdy, Mr. Shaw would like the Commission to consider a trail easement on that property.

Request for Certificates of Compliance

Liz Allard informed the members that she has several Requests for Certificates of Compliance. Those being 38 Lovers Lane, DEP#177-583, Willard Shores, DEP#177-566 and the re-issuance of 173 Prospect Hill Road, DEP#177-446. Site visits have been conducted by Ms. Allard, who stated that the sites are in compliance with the Order of Conditions issued to them.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to issue the above mentioned Certificates of Compliance. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update – CPC Presentation Update/Trail Clean Up

Paul Willard stated that Wendy Sisson did a wonderful job presenting the application for funding to control invasive species to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Additional information was requested by the CPC, which Ms. Sisson is working on. Charlie Gorss, the Commission's representative to the CPC, believes decisions on funding will be made in about a month.

Encroachment onto Conservation Land – Blue Moon Farm, 87 Depot Road

Jim Croyle informed Liz Allard that he would not be able to attend this evenings meeting, but would be able to make it on December 1st

Planning Board Request for Comments – STC Five LLC, 47 Poor Farm Road

Liz Allard informed the Commission that the Planning Board (PB) is seeking input on a modification to a Special Permit for a co-locator on the cell tower at 47 Poor Farm Road. The modifications do not include any work within the Commission's jurisdiction. The members agreed that they had no comments in regards to this application. A letter will be sent to the PB in that regard.

Minutes

Wendy Sisson made a motion to accept the minutes of July 7, 2011 and October 20, 2011 as amended. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

McCurdy Update

Jim Breslauer informed the members that he has spoken with Jean McCurdy in regards to the potential of the Commission purchasing a Conservation Restriction for her property on Littleton Road. Ms. McCurdy was unhappy with the amount of the appraisal, she will continue to market the property without a CR and if the property should not sell she will reconsider the Commissions offer. The Commission agreed that if allowed, they were willing to make an offer above the appraised price. Liz Allard will contact Town Counsel to determine if the Commission is allowed to offer more than the appraised price. The Commission agreed, if allowed, to have Mr. Breslauer increase the offer to Ms. McCurdy.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent