

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 19, 2012
APPROVED: August 16, 2012**

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

Members Present: Paul Willard, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Donna Siedlar

Approval of Minutes

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2012 and June 21, 2012 as amended. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Harvard Conservation Trust Request for use of the Stone Land for “Run to the Hills” Event

Liz Allard explained the Harvard Conservation Trust will be holding its “Run for the Hills” event on September 9, 2012 and is once again requesting permission to use the Stone Land on Old Mill Road during the event. Wendy Sisson made a motion to allow the Harvard Conservation Trust the use of the Stone Land on September 9th for an event. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Review Culver Replacement Plan for Williams Pond Culvert Repair

Liz Allard explained to the members that the plan to repair the culverts at the Williams Pond on Stow Road has been completed. Department of Public Works Director, Rich Nota, reviewed the plan and requested it plan be revised to be only one pipe rather than three. Ms. Allard discussed this with Dan Wolfe at Ross Associates, who had completed the plan; Mr. Wolfe stated changing from the existing three pipes to one will change the hydrology of the pond, not to mention create a maintenance issue when the pipe becomes clogged. Mr. Nota had agreed to complete the work to repair the culvert this fall. After a brief discussion, Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the plan as designed by Ross Associates, Plan No. M-6465, dated June 2012. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request to Install Memorial on Conservation Land

Liz Allard refreshed the Commission on the request made in 2010 for the installation of a memorial on Conservation Land in memory of Collin Fay by his mother, Roben Campbell. Ms. Campbell has sent a photo showing a Japanese type memorial. Wendy Sisson suggested the Commission create a policy in regards to this type of request. Ms. Sisson would suggest a bench to allow for places to sit. Jim Breslauer stated he too prefers a bench, which could be a Japanese design if Ms. Campbell so desires. The Commission would like a specific location on the Mary Clapp Trail be identified for the location of the memorial. Paul Willard stated he would be in touch with Ms. Campbell to express the opinion of the Commission.

Discuss Procedure for reviewing and approving new trails

Wendy Sisson stated it seems to her if anyone wants to create a new trail on Conservation Land then the Commission should first have a discussion about where it will be located, the proposed trail should then be flagged for review by members of the Commission and the Land Stewardship Subcommittee (LSS) with final discussion and approval at a Conservation Commission meeting with recommendations from LSS. Members agreed with Ms. Sisson and asked that she draft a formal procedure for their review and approval.

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – Donna Siedlar, Harvard#0712-01. Opened at 7:30pm

Follow-up to Site Visit with Harvard Community Solar Garden, LLC at Transfer Station

Liz Allard explained that she and Don Ritchie reviewed the Transfer Station location for potential solar development and concluded that the trees that would be required to be removed would not meet the requirements for protection under the Wetland Protection Bylaw and potentially the Wetland Protection Act. Worth Robbins, of the Harvard Community Solar Garden, was present at the site walk with Ms. Allard and Mr. Ritchie as well.

Requests for a Certificate of Compliance

Liz Allard explained to the members they have received two Requests for Certificate of Compliance. The first is for Sanjay Gulati at 92 Tahanto Trail, DEP#177-573 and the second from Rachel Coffin at 8 Westcott Road, DEP#177-588. Ms. Allard has reviewed both sites and found them to be in compliance with the Orders of Condition. Wendy Sisson made a motion to issue Certificates of Compliance for DEP#177-573 and 177-588. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor with the motion.

Discuss Re-appointment of Patrick Doherty

Paul Willard informed the members that he has been contacted by Patrick Doherty who is seeking to be reappointed to the Commission. Wendy Sisson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the re-appointment of Patrick Doherty to the Conservation Commission. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Harvard Conservation Trust Request for Trail Challenge Installation of Plastic Punches

Liz Allard had previously sent an email to the members from Robin Malloy of the Harvard Conservation Trust requesting permission to install plastic punches on trees on some of the trails on Conservation Land. The punches will be part of an incentive program to get people out on the trails. Wendy Sisson had contacted Ms. Malloy and asked how long the punches would be in place; Ms. Malloy estimated one year. The program would not require any signage on the trails. Ms. Malloy had suggested the punches be attached to a piece of wood which then would be attached to the tree with nails. Ms. Sisson mentioned that Land Stewardship Subcommittee member Jim Adelson would be willing to help install the punches. Members had several question including how many punches would be installed, where they would be installed and could they be installed in a manner which would not require the use of nails. Ms. Allard stated she would follow up with Ms. Malloy.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update

Wendy Sisson stated the butterfly project being conducted on the Williams Land by Harvard Forest was very cool. Ms. Sisson took pictures during the process and will share them with the Commission. The flight of butterflies is basically over now, which is great timing as the field will be hayed in the next week. Ms. Sisson stated the butterflies do not fly very far, so if they lose their habitat they don't move on to another location. There is a potential for an increase in butterflies if a buffer zone is established around the stream, which would not be mowed until October.

Ms. Sisson stated the pond on the Williams land is filled with algae and she wonders if it is due to the climate this year or just typical. Ms. Sisson suggested establishing a buffer in which there should be no mowing or use of chemicals. Ms. Sisson requested the water of the pond be tested for nitrogen and phosphorus. Members agreed to the request.

Ms. Sisson requested an appropriation of funds for pruning equipment to be used by the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. Ms. Sisson would like to purchase a pole saw and three pruning saws. Jim Breslauer made a motion to appropriate up to \$225.00 for the purchase of pruning equipment. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Sisson reported that boardwalks along Millie's Path have been completed and that the Department of Public Works has opened up the trailhead across from the post office. Paul Willard stated the Sprague land has been hayed for the first time in a number of years by Jim Pickard.

Update of Transfer Station Improvements

A response letter from Rich Nota, the Director of the Department of Public Works, had been received today and distributed to the members. Members agreed they are in support of Mr. Nota's effort to establish a compost facility. In regards to managing unauthorized deliveries to the area at the rear of the site, the Commission would like to have the gate closed all of the time rather than just at the end of each work day. Liz Allard will draft a letter expressing the opinions stated this evening.

Pond Improvements

Liz Allard stated the Park and Recreation Commission had requested the removal of trap rock that was installed near the boat ramp during the dredging project. The rock was installed to aid in the prevention of erosion during the project, but has since become an issue to users of the pond. Members had no issues with the request; they would like the existing contour of the beach area to be maintained as well as having Paul Willard on site when the work is conducted. Liz Allard will send John Lee a message this evening to that regard.

Executive Session

Wendy Sisson made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property because a public discussion of this matter could have detrimental effects on the negotiating position only to return to the regular session of the meeting once the discussion is complete. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Paul Willard, yea; Jim Breslauer, yea; Jaye Waldron; yea; and Wendy Sisson, yea.

At 8:30pm Jim Breslauer made a motion to come out of executive session and return to the regular session of the meeting. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discuss General Guidelines for Farming in Wetland Resource Areas

Liz Allard stated she has not had an opportunity to refine the language of the drafted guidelines, but will do so for the August 2nd meeting.

Adjournment

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. 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
Request for Determination of Applicability
Donna Siedlar, Turner Lane, Harvard#0712-01
July 19, 2012**

Chairman Paul Willard opened the public hearing at 7:30pm under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 §40 and the Harvard Wetland Protection Bylaw, Chapter 119 of the Code of the Town of Harvard in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Paul Willard, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Donna Siedlar

This hearing is for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed on behalf of Donna Siedlar for the removal of trees that are posing a threat to human health and safety on Turner Lane, Harvard.

Liz Allard explained to the members that she and Don Ritchie reviewed the site and concluded that the trees being requested for removal would not be detrimental to the existing canopy. The stumps of the trees closest to the pond should remain to maintain stabilization of the area. With no questions from the Commission, Jim Breslauer made a motion to close the hearing and issue a Negative#3 Determination of Applicability that includes the condition previously mentioned. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard
Land Use Administrator/
Conservation Agent

DOCUMENTS & OTHER EXHIBITS

Review Culver Replacement Plan for Williams Pond Culvert Repair

- ❖ Site Plan of Land in Harvard, Massachusetts, Prepared for Harvard Conservation Commission, by David E. Ross Associates, Inc., Job No. 28017, Plan No. M-6465, dated June 2012

Request to Install Memorial on Conservation Land

- ❖ Email dated July 12, 2012 from Roben Campbell, subject: Re: possibility permanent marker on town land

Harvard Conservation Trust Request for Trail Challenge Installation of Plastic Punches

- ❖ Email dated July 16,2012 from Robin Malloy, subject: HCT

Update of Transfer Station Improvements

- ❖ Letter from Harvard Public Works Department, dated July 17, 2012