

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 2, 2012  
APPROVED: September 6, 2012**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:10pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Paul Willard, Jim Breslauer, Wendy Sisson and Don Ritchie

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Greg Higgins

**Discuss Gift of Land – St. John Lane**

Greg Higgins was present to discuss his potential gift of land of his family's property on St. John Lane. Mr. Higgins explained the site has been tested several times over the years and there is no suitable area for a septic system. The area contains the two parcels at the end of St. John Lane; assessors map 27 parcels 125 & 126, which total about seven acres. The Higgins family is willing to donate the land to the Town as long as there is no cost associated with doing so. The members present were agreeable to the request and requested the Land Use Administrator start the process to accept the land as a gift from the Higgins family at the next town meeting.

**Review & Update Five-Year Strategies and Objectives FY14-18**

Liz Allard explained to the members the Board of Selectmen is requesting the five-year strategies and objectives created last year be updated through fiscal year 2018. Ms. Allard has reviewed last year's document to determine what goals and objectives were completed in fiscal year 2012, as well as those tasks for fiscal year 2013. Paul Willard agreed to review and update this document along with Ms. Allard for approval at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission.

**Update on Open Space & Recreation Plan Goals & Objectives**

In conjunction with the Board of Selectmen request to update the five-year strategies and objective plan. Liz Allard is seeking any updates to the goals under the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Paul Willard suggested members review their designated goals and objectives and report back at the next meeting as to their progress with assigned goals and/or why they may be unable to accomplish assigned goals.

**Required Conservation Restrictions under Community Preservation Act**

Liz Allard explained the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs requested the recording information on the required conservation restrictions for properties purchased with Community Preservation Act funds. In researching this information Ms. Allard has found none of the four properties purchased between 2002 and 2004 have had the required conservation restriction completed. Wendy Sisson stated she thinks we should consider asking Judy Pickett for a price to complete these conservation restrictions, since she is legal counsel that has experience with the document requirements. Paul Willard wondered what the is penalty for not completing a conservation restriction. Ms. Sisson explained the conservation restriction for Dean's Hill was completed and submitted but was returned for further information, which has not been resubmitted. Ms. Sisson agreed to finalize the Dean's Hill restriction for final approval. Member questioned how a parcel such as the Locke parcel on Green Hill Road, at only 0.33 acres, would require a conservation restriction. Ms. Allard will follow up with the State to determine if there is some way of not having to fulfill all of the requirements under a conservation restriction for such a small parcel.

**Request for a Certificate of Compliance – Eycleshymer, 61 Whitney Road, 177-598**

Liz Allard stated the Commission received a Request for a Certificate of Compliance for Bill Eycleshymer at 61 Whitney Road, DEP#177- 598. Ms. Allard has reviewed the site for compliance and has found it to be satisfactory with the Order of Conditions. Jim Breslauer made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP#177-598. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **Planning Board Request for Comments – Harvard Community Solar Garden, Ayer Road**

Liz Allard stated the request for Comments received from the Planning Board (PB) is in regards to the solar facility on Ayer Road proposed by the Harvard Community Solar Garden. A Determination of Applicability was issued in June for the site. A letter will be sent to the PB to include the conditions as stated within the Determination.

### **Sprague Land Signage**

Wendy Sisson stated the Harvard Police Department (HPD) has informed the Commission that the sign on the Sprague Land on West Bare Hill Road was damaged by a motor vehicle accident. The HPD has the operator's insurance information should the Commission want to have the sign repaired at the operator's expense. Members agreed to review the accident report to determine the cause of the accident before making any decisions on how to proceed.

### **Harvard Conservation Trust Request for Trail Challenge Installation of Plastic Punches**

Liz Allard explained she had met with Robin Malloy of the Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) and Jim Adelson of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee to discuss the request and questions the members had at the previous meeting. Ms. Allard stated Ms. Malloy is willing to use strapping to affix the punches to the trees. An example of the material she was thinking of using was discussed. The HCT plans on installing 18 – 20 of the punches along trails in Harvard. There is no required signage involved with the punches, which will be used to indicate an individual's use of the trail. Nominal awards may be given for locating all of the punches along the trails along with acknowledgement in the local paper. Overall the purpose is to get people out onto the trails and give them a sense of accomplishment. Ms. Mallory in a previous conversation with Wendy Sisson stated she is in agreement that the Conservation Commission shall be acknowledged as a sponsor of this activity. Members were in agreement with the concept and the installation of the punches along the trails. The members would like to know where the punches will be located prior to giving final approval.

### **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; Don Ritchie, yea; Wendy Sisson, yea.

At 8:08pm 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 has not had an opportunity to discuss the document with Paul Willard further in regards to the first line in the third paragraph. Mr. Willard and Ms. Allard agreed to discuss over the next two weeks prior to the next meeting.

### **Allocation of Funds**

Liz Allard requested the allocation of funds to purchase "Runoff, Erosion & Sediment Control" field guide at a cost of \$28.00 and the allocation of \$50.00 for Erosion Control Field Day in Concord on August 28, 2012. Jim Breslauer made a motion to allocate \$78.00 for the previously mentioned items. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Adjournment**

Jim Breslauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**DOCUMENTS & OTHER EXHIBITS****Request for a Certificate of Compliance – Eycleshymer, 61 Whitney Road, 177-598**

- ❖ WPA Form 8A Request for Certificate of Compliance – Bill Eycleshymer, 61 Whitney Road, received July 30, 2012
- ❖ Residential Development Construction Record Plan, Lot 1, 61 Whitney Road, Harvard, MA, Prepared by GPR, Inc., Job 111047, dated July 2012

