

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012
APPROVED: October 4, 2012**

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

Members Present: Paul Willard, Jim Breslauer, Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, Charlie Gorss, Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin) and Mark Lanza

Review revised plan for Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee, DEP#177-609

Liz Allard explained the plan approved by the Commission in June for the final two stormwater management facilities at Bare Hill Pond had been revised in August. The revised plans have minor changes to which include:

- ❖ Specification of the two project phases with the overall start (10/15) and end (5/15) dates on CV-2
- ❖ Explicit delineation of the dewatering area, detailing of the boat ramp layout, and additional BHP-8 construction details on C-4
- ❖ Additional BHP-9 construction details on C-5
- ❖ Addition of pages LA-1 and LA-2 to describe the landscaping plan in more detail

After a review of the approved plan and the revised plan dated August 2012 Don Ritchie made a motion to allow the revisions as *De Minimus* and will not require an amendment to the Order of Conditions. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Executive Session

Don Ritchie made a motion that the Conservation Commission 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 in which a public discussion of these matters will have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Commission, only to return to the open session of the public meeting once the discussion is complete. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Paul Willard, aye; Don Ritchie, aye; Jim Breslauer, aye; Wendy Sisson, aye, Charlie Gorss, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to come out of executive session and reconvene to the open session of the public meeting. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Fruitland's Request for Signage at Holy Hill

Liz Allard explained Fruitland's Museum had contacted her about adding quick response (QR) codes to the signs at Holy Hill that would be linked to short videos on the history of Holy Hill. Ms. Allard had not reviewed the videos as of yet. Jim Breslauer made a motion to allow the addition of the signs as long as the videos were strictly about Holy Hill and there is no reference to Fruitland's Museum. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Minutes

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2012 as amended. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Location for Monument on the Clapp/Scorgie Trail

Liz Allard explained she had met with Roben Campbell last week to review the site at which she is requesting a monument be placed in memory of her son Collin Fay. The site is located at the

end of a spur of the Scorgie Trail that leads to a bluff overlooking Bare Hill Pond. Ms. Campbell had explained to Ms. Allard her reason for the location is because the trail is one that was frequented by Collin and his siblings during their younger years here in Town. Ms. Allard shared photos of the site. Wendy Sisson reiterated the Commission's desire to have a bench to allow for a place for walkers and hikers to rest, as well as that the approval of this monument does not set a precedent for this type of memorial. It was explained that Paul Willard had previously stated he would be in touch with Ms. Campbell in regards to the Commission's desire to have a bench rather than a monument, however that conversation never took place and the monument was being created prior to Ms. Campbell's knowledge of the Commission's preference of a bench.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the location of the memorial for Collin Fay along the Scorgie Trail. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Update on Ruben Reed Land Encroachment

Liz Allard stated she had spoken to the Town Administrator, Tim Bragan, in regards to determining where the Town land starts and the State land ends along the section of Mass Ave where the parking area was installed on the Ruben Reed land. Mr. Bragan suggested contacting the Mass Highway as they just completed road work in that area and should have plans detailing the right of way. Ms. Allard has a contact at Mass Highway and has sent a request for the information, but has not heard back as of yet. Once new information is received Ms. Allard will share it with the Commission to determine what will be the next step.

Update on Boom Flail

Paul Willard stated he had not had an opportunity to speak with the operator, nor the Director of Public Works about the roadside cutting with the boom flail as of yet. Wendy Sisson stated she is not looking to compromise highway safety when it comes to clearing the line of sight, however if the area contains wetland she would like there to be some consideration as to how the clearing can be achieved without compromising the wetland habitat. Ms. Sisson added that if the operator is unsure if an area is in fact wetlands then maybe the area could be reviewed by the Conservation Agent prior to the cutting to determine the best course of action. The issue is not loss of vegetation, but rather the opportunity for invasive plant species to take hold and drive out native species. Mr. Willard will follow up with the proper individuals at the public works department.

Baystate Roads Workshop

Wendy Sisson stated she would like to attend the Baystate Roads workshop on Invasive Plant Management on October 11, 2012 in Sudbury at a cost of \$30.00. Liz Allard has forwarded the information onto Ron Gilbert, at the Department of Public Works, and requested that either the operator of the boom flail or he attend. Don Ritchie made a motion to allocate \$30.00 for Wendy Sisson to attend the previously mentioned workshop. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Update on Open Space & Recreation Plan Goals & Objectives

As a friendly reminder, Liz Allard reminded the members that she has requested an update from the members as it pertains to the goals assigned to them under the Open Space & recreation Plan.

Required Conservation Restrictions under Community Preservation Act

Liz Allard stated she had spoke with Attorney Judy Pickette this week in regards to the Conservation Restrictions (CR) required for the Stone, Locke and Loungo lands. Ms. Pickette stated she had recalled the State had determined that these types of lands did not require a CR as they were already protected by virtue of being in conservation. Ms. Pickette is doing the research to determine if this is correct; Ms. Allard has not received any response as of yet. As soon as information becomes available Ms. Allard will inform the Commission.

Harvard Conservation Trust Request for Trail Challenge Installation of Plastic Punches

Wendy Sisson stated Jim Adelson, of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee, will be going out this week with Robin Malloy, of the Harvard Conservation Trust, to determine the proper locations of the punches along the trails.

Revision to Five-Year Strategies & Objective Plan

Liz Allard had previously distributed the revised five-year strategies & objective plan for the members to review. Jim Breslauer suggested removing the creation of a full-time conservation agent position until there is a better understanding of whether or not a planner will be hired. Members agreed, as well as agreed with the revised plan.

Community Preservation Committee

Liz Allard stated it has been suggested the Commission make a request for funding from the Community Preservation Committee as they have in the past. The application should include an explanation of the Commission's understanding of the annual funding when the Community Preservation Act was established by the Town. As well the application should indicate that this funding is in line with the Master Plan recommendation. The Commission also has a number of potential open space purchases within the next several months, which should be stated on the application. Jim Breslauer made a motion instructing Liz Allard to submit an application for funding to the CPC in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of open space. Don Ritchie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

Don Ritchie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Jim Breslauer 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 revised plan for Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee, DEP#177-609

- ❖ Bare Hill Pond Stormwater Retrofit Project Harvard, Massachusetts, BHP-8 and 9 Construction Drawings, Prepared for Town of Harvard, 13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA 01451, (978) 456-4100, Prepared by Horsley Witten Group, Inc., dated August 2012

Approve Location for Monument on the Clapp/Scorgie Trail

- ❖ Photos dated September 13, 2012