

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 20, 2014
APPROVED: April 23, 2014**

Chairman Paul Willard called the meeting to order at 7:01pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Bill Calderwood (Elm Commission), Sydney Blackwell (Harvard Press) and Kenneth Thompson

Elm Commission Tree Memorial Policy

Bill Calderwood, Chairman of the Elm Commission, was present to discuss the Tree Memorial Tree Policy with the Commission. The policy has been approved by the Board of Selectmen with the stipulation the Elm Commission would obtain approval from the Conservation Commission (Concom), Parks and Recreation Commission and the School Committee, as the lands addressed in the policy are under the care and management of these groups. Mr. Calderwood explained under the policy trees will be planted where appropriate for shade and aesthetics. Jim Breslauer stated there was nowhere in the policy about planting trees in the 100' wetland buffer zone, which would require approval from Concom. Wendy Sisson stated that does not have to be directly in the policy, but the Elm Commission should be aware of it. Mr. Calderwood will review the selected trees and location with the Conservation Agent when applications are received. With no further question, Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the Town of Harvard Tree Planting Policy, under the direction of the Tree Warden and the Elm Commission. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millworks, LLC, Stow Road, Harvard#0314-01. Opened at 7:30pm

Approve & Sign Baseline Report for Hoch, Still Road

Liz Allard had previously made available for the members the baseline report for the Hoch land on Still River Road. Ms. Allard and Wendy Sisson have reviewed the report and after a few minor revisions find it to be complete. With that said, Wendy Sisson made a motion to accept the baseline report for the Hoch land as prepared by Land Stewardship, Inc. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Review Use of Horne Land for Snowmobile Trail

Liz Allard stated she had recently been contacted by Tony Shaw, the president of the Harvard Snow Mobile Club, who had asked to meet with the Commission to discuss the use of the Horne land for a snowmobile trail. The Commission had denied this request in November 2012, but learned this past winter the area was being used by snowmobiles. A letter had been sent to the snowmobile club telling them to cease using that land for snowmobile activity. Ms. Allard has had a recent conversation with Mr. Shaw about the use of that land and the sensitivity of the resource area. Subsequently, Mr. Shaw stated he would not be in seeking permission to use the Horne land. Paul Willard stated he too has spoken to Mr. Shaw and believes Mr. Shaw understands the message from the Commission that the land is not suitable for this activity.

Hermann Orchard Access

Wendy Sisson stated the Land Stewardship Subcommittee is continuing to work on having the Hermann Orchard cleared. Ms. Sisson is scheduled to review the area with the caretaker of Little Rascals, Joe Manny and the selected contractor.

Approve Invoices

Liz Allard stated the following invoice have been received and needs to be approved for payment to be included on the next bill warrant:

- Land Stewardship \$1719.88

Jim Breslauer made a motion to approve the above mentioned invoice for payment. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Minutes

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2014 as amended. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Certificate of Compliance – Town of Harvard Department of Public Works, DEP#177-576, 592, 593 &594

Liz Allard stated the Commission has received several Requests for Certificate of Compliance from the Department of Public Works. Ms. Allard has reviewed the sites and determined they have been completed as approved by the Order of Conditions. Jim Breslauer made a motion to issue the requested Certificates of Compliance for DEP#177-576, 592, 593 and 594. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Update on Thurston's Cove

Liz Allard stated she has been in touch with the Chief of Police to follow-up on his recommendations for signage at the entrance to Thurston's Cove. Ms. Allard will have his suggestions for the next meeting.

MACC Annual Conference Follow-up

Liz Allard stated the conference information has not been released by MACC as of yet.

Master Plan Steering Committee Update

Jaye Waldron stated the Devens round table discussion on March 8th was well attended. The consultants to the Master Plan will now develop working papers to be reviewed by the members of the steering committee and will aid in the development of a town wide survey.

Request to Purchase Land

Liz Allard stated she had been contacted by the owner of a 12.25 ace parcel of land on Littleton Road who is interested in selling it to the town. Ms. Allard has determined the property currently has well over \$100,000 in back taxes due on it. The members agreed they were not interested in the parcel at that cost; should the property owner wish to pay the back taxes then the Commission would be willing to discuss a potential purchase.

Paul Willard left the meeting at 9:19pm

Executive Session

Charlie Gorss 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 adjourn the meeting immediately after the discussion. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; Wendy Sisson, aye; Charlie Gorss, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Jim Breslauer, aye.

Adjournment

At the completion of the executive session, Charlie Gorss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33pm. Wendy Sisson 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 Hearing Meeting Minutes
Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millwork, LLC,
Stow Road (Map 28 Parcel 7.4), Harvard#0314-01
March 20, 2014**

The public hearing was opened at 7:30pm by Chairman Paul Willard under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, Ch. 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, Charlie Gorss, Wendy Sisson and Jaye Waldron

Others Present: Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Sydney Blackwell (Harvard Press), Kenneth Thompson

This hearing is for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed on behalf of Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millworks, LLC for the removal of an existing carriage house within 100' wetland buffer zone and the 200' riverfront area on Stow Road (Map 28 Parcel 7.4), Harvard.

Ken Thompson, from Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millwork, was present to discuss the removal of the carriage house across the road from 105 Stow Road. As part of the proposed affordable housing project at 105 Stow Road, the existing carriage house will need to be removed. This will be done in a systematic process as the structure contains lead paint. Mr. Thompson explained the process will not require the use of any excavation equipment. The process should be completed within two weeks. Liz Allard requested the erosion control barrier be extended to the roadways edge.

With no further questions or comments, Wendy Sisson made a motion to close the hearing and issue a negative #3 Determination with the conditions that the erosion control barrier is to be extended to the roads edge and the barrier is to be inspected by the Conservation Agent prior to the commencement of work. 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

Elm Commission Tree Memorial Policy

- Town of Harvard Tree Planting Policy, Tree Warden and Elm Commission, v.9
4Mar2014 BC
- Map depicting town owned parcels along Pond and Ayer Road

Request for Determination of Applicability Hearing – Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millworks, LLC, Stow Road, Harvard#0314-01

- Stow Road Carriage Shed (Not to Scale) plan, dated Jan. 1, 2013