

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 19, 2015  
APPROVED: MARCH 19, 2015**

Vice Chairman Don Ritchie meeting to order at 7:33pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room under MGL Chapter 131 §40 The Wetland Protection Act and The Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 the Wetland Protection Bylaw

**Members Present:** Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer, Joanne Waldron, and Charlie Gorss

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Gary Shepard (Ross Assoc.), Sean P. Bilodeau, Frank Carlson and Sean Bilodeau

**Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – The Homescout, LLC, 90 Warren Avenue, DEP#177-635, Harvard#1114-02.** Opened at 7:30pm

**Discuss Co-sponsoring a Warrant Article to Extend Sewer District**

Liz Allard explained to the members that the letter to the Wastewater Management District Commission (WMDC) was hand delivered to the Commission on Wednesday. The letter requests the WMDC to consider the expansion of the sewer district to include Whitman Road. The WMDC requested the warrant article for the extension be co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission (Concom) and the Board of Health. Wendy Sisson expressed concern of creating the ability to make undevelopable lots into developable lots by allowing sewer connections along the entire length of the roadway. The Commission agreed that the objective is water quality, and if the sewer is extended, water quality comes out ahead even with additional development.

Since the roadway contains a limited number of parcels either owned by the Town of Harvard or by the existing home owners along the road, it was suggested to speak with those owners and determine if they are interested in preserving the undeveloped land with a conservation restriction. The Concom could offer a minimal amount for these restrictions, which would help offset some of the costs to the homeowners for connecting to the sewer.

As a whole the members believe the extension of the sewer line along Whitman Road is a good idea, but they do not want to cause more harm than good. Some work should be done to determine how many of the lots could be developed. Jim Breslauer stated that pulling back on co-sponsoring the warrant article would look strange. It was agreed that the Concom will explain to the property owners that the Commission may decide to pull support for the warrant article at town meeting if they are not willing to work towards preserving the vacant lots.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to support the warrant article along with the WMDC and BOH for the extension of the sewer district to include Whitman Road; with an option to withdraw support at town meeting should the property owners not be supportive of preserving the undeveloped land. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Request from Nashua River Watershed Association to Participate in Heart Healthy Trails**

Wendy Sisson explained the program by the Department of Recreation and Conservation, in which trails within the State Parks will be designated as "heart healthy" in an effort to encourage Massachusetts residents to make them part of their regular exercise routine. The trails are typically a mile and half or less in length and are easy to moderate. Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) is conducting a similar program within the watershed area and has requested suitable locations for here in Harvard. Ms. Sisson thought of the trail behind McCurdy Track and the trails within the Oxbow; neither of which are managed by the Commission. It was suggested NRWA discuss the matter further with the Park and Recreation Commission, as they manage the land behind McCurdy Track.

**Approve Invoices**

Liz Allard stated the Commission has received the following invoice for inclusion on the next bill warrant:

- Avery Associates - \$1500.00

Wendy Sisson made a motion to approve the above-mentioned invoices for inclusion on the next bill warrant. Jim Breslauer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Notice of Intent Hearing – Sean Bilodeau, 134 Old Littleton Road, DEP#177-637, Harvard#0215-01.** Opened at 8:00pm

**Review Harvard Conservation Trust Purchase & Sale Agreement and Conservation Restriction – Parcel A Old Littleton Road**

Wendy Sisson explained to the members that the purchase and sales agreement between the Commission and the Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) for the purchase of 3.81 acres of open space on Old Littleton Road is being drafted by Town Counsel, Mark Lanza; once drafted it will be reviewed by the HCT attorney. Ms. Sisson has drafted and sent the revised conservation restriction to the HCT for their review as well.

**Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing – Jonathan Williams, 13 Whitman Road, DEP#177-636, Harvard#0115-01.** Opened at 8:30pm

**Adjournment**

Jim Breslauer made a motion at 8:31pm to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Gorss seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission**  
**Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes**  
**The Homescout LLC, 90 Warren Avenue, DEP#177-635, Harvard#1114-02**  
**February 19, 2015**

The public hearing was opened at 7:30pm by Vice Chairman Don Ritchie 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:** Don Ritchie, Charlie Gorss, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer and Joanne Ward

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin)

This hearing was continued from February 5, 2015 for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of The Homescout LLC for an upgrade to the sewage disposal system, demolition of existing single-family dwelling and the reconstruction of a new single-family dwelling, improvements the existing driveway, the construction of a bridge and new portion of the driveway and selective tree removal within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 90 Warren Avenue, Harvard.

Liz Allard informed the members that the applicant's representative has requested the hearing be continued to the March 19, 2015 to allow for potential revisions to the plan due to Board of Health and Zoning Board of Appeals requests.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to continue the hearing to March 19, 2015 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission**  
**Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes**  
**Sean Bilodeau, 134 Old Littleton Road, DEP#177-637, Harvard#0215-01**  
**February 19, 2015**

The public hearing was opened at 8:00pm by Vice Chairman Don Richie 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:** Don Ritchie, Charlie Gorss, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer and Joanne Ward

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin), Gary Shepard (Ross Assoc.), Sean P. Bilodeau, Frank Carlson and Sean Bilodeau

This hearing is for a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Sean Bilodeau for the installation of a replacement septic system for a single family home within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 134 Old Littleton Road, Harvard.

Gary Sheppard, of Ross Associates, was present to represent the applicant, Sean Bilodeau, who was also present. Mr. Shepard explained the resource areas on the site; an old farm pond that is fed and drained by an intermittent stream with a bordering vegetated wetland. The existing house is almost entirely within the wetland buffer zone. The components of the existing septic system are within the wetland buffer zone as well. The site contains an extensive amount of ledge, which makes locating a new septic system difficult. The proposed location for the leach area is existing lawn, which is outside the wetland buffer zone; however the breakout fill for the system will be within the wetland buffer zone. The plan proposes 1,500 square feet of disturbance within the wetland buffer zone. The septic tank and pump chamber are to be located on the east side of the dwelling, as they are now. These components will be no closer to the wetland than the existing components. The proposed system is a Presby© system, which reduces the amount of fill in wetland buffer zone. The existing three bedroom house is to remain the same. The site contained the ruins of a shed that has since been removed.

Liz Allard asked about clearing that has already taken place on the site. Mr. Bilodeau stated the clearing consisted of just over grown vegetation that had impeded the access to and around the dwelling. Mr. Bilodeau stated no trees had been cut on the site, nor had any vegetation been removed from the wetland. It was explained that when conducting such an activity, although considered routine, the Conservation Agent should be notified should anyone contact her about said activity.

Due to the existing weather conditions the Commission has been unable to conduct a site walk for the location and requested the hearing be continued until they could do so.

Frank Carlson, who maintains the abutting agricultural field, stated he has no issue with the proposed project.

Jim Breslauer made a motion to continue the hearing to March 19, 2015 at 7:45pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent

**Harvard Conservation Commission**  
**Continuation of a Notice of Intent Hearing Meeting Minutes**  
**Jonathan Williams, 13 Whitman Road, DEP#177-636, Harvard#0115-01**  
**February 19, 2015**

The public hearing was opened at 8:30pm by Vice Chairman Don Ritchie 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:** Don Ritchie, Charlie Gorss, Wendy Sisson, Jim Breslauer and Joanne Ward

**Others Present:** Liz Allard (LUB Admin)

This hearing was continued from February 5, 2015 on a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Jonathan Williams for an upgrade to the sewage disposal system for an existing four-bedroom single-family house within the 100' wetland buffer zone at 13 Whitman Road, Harvard.

Liz Allard informed the members that the applicant's representative has requested the hearing be continued until the first meeting in April to allow for the warrant article that would expand the sewer district, which would include this location, to be heard at the annual town meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Joanne Ward made a motion to continue the hearing until April 2, 2015 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Wendy Sisson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard  
Land Use Administrator/  
Conservation Agent

## **DOCUMENTS & OTHER EXHIBITS**

### **Discuss Co-sponsoring a Warrant Article to Extend Sewer District**

- Letter to the Wastewater Management District Commission from the Conservation Commission, Board of Health & Rich Nota, RE: Expansion of the Town Sewer District, dated February 17, 2015