

Holland Conservation Commission
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland MA 01521

Minutes of Conservation Commission: April 25, 2017

Members Present: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCooe; Anne Hall

Members Absent: Jessica Chaffee

Marcia Beal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Motion made by Fran Gallo to accept minutes of April 11, 2017 as corrected. Marcia seconded. All in favor--motion passed.

Correspondence/Email:

- 4/11/17: For Brian Johnson re Highway NOI—received the NHESP letter with specific conditions from Daisy Madeiros.
- 4/12/17: Emails from Highway Department to Mark Stinson withdrawing the NOI.
- 4/12/17: Follow-up emails From Mark Stinson re Highway NOI—He stated that the extended order 184-0291 did not allow any work in rare species habitat. The NHESP letter from 4/11 references that file number. He said if the town requests to amend the Order to allow work in estimated or priority habitat, then the comments from the NHESP need to be addressed and a MESA filing will be required. (NOTE: All emails re Highway Department went into the NOI extension file).
- 4/12/17: CC of email from Chris McCooe sent to Mark Stinson re watershed measurement and the cost of sending out abutters letters with proof of mailing (\$1.35 each plus \$.49 each for postage).
- 4/12/17: Response from Mark Stinson stating that the watershed area of Hamilton Reservoir is 18 square miles (approximately 640 acres per square mile). He sent the website for ConCom to check it again.
- 4/12/17: Emails to Fran Gallo from Greenhill Engineering regarding some questions and possible corrections to the Order of Conditions for 58 Morse Road (Cormier). Fran responded via phone.
- 4/12/17: Reminder of Joint Meeting with Select Board regarding Brandon Cove.
- 4/14/17: Worcester Telegram and Gazette—copy of legal notice for Ralph Donadio's hearing (19 Lakeridge Road).
- 4/14/17: Worcester Telegram and Gazette—verification of legal notice for Mike Lacey's RDA Public Meeting (56 Butterworth Rd.).
- 4/14/17: Worcester Telegram and Gazette--verification of legal notice for Joseph and Lisa Frigo's RDA Public Meeting (12 Julia Ann Drive).
- 4/18/17: Notification that DEP #184-0334 has been assigned to Ralph Donadio's (19 Lakeridge Drive) new home project.
- 4/18/17: Invoice for \$55 for Andy Harhay's Class—Webnar Unit 101. (NOTE: Andy has paid this.)
- 4/18/17: Chris McCooe sent an email to Ralph Taylor re the drawdown dates and the rationale for starting the drawdown in mid-October.
- 4/19/17: Grant information on Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. (Gave to Anne Hall).
- 4/19/17: Invoice for Jessica Chaffee for MACC conference. (Gave to Andy Harhay).
- 4/22/17: Email about Septic Service software from Mike Evans.
- 4/24/17: Time line from Town for preparing for FY 2018.
- Invitation to Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Open House on Saturday, June 10 from 10 am to 3 pm at Mass Wildlife Field Headquarters (Rain Date June 11).

Correspondence/Mail:

- Letter regarding Connecticut River Conservancy.

Phone Calls/Messages:

- Unidentified neighbor (left only phone number) called about 24 Brandon Street. She said that her neighbor has been digging without any barriers to protect the resource area. She has called before and wants Conservation to become involved. Fran returned the call and said ConCom would make a site visit.
- Marie from Landscape Evolution called to say that Mike Thibeault plans to attend on April 25 at 8:30 to speak to Conservation about controlling Gypsy Moths.

Round Table Discussion:

- Chris said that abutters' letters for the Weed Treatment cannot be mailed out with the tax bills. The cost of mailing the abutters' letters with proof of mailing is \$1.35 each plus \$.49 each for postage. Selectmen will be asked to do this.
- Marcia will arrange to have Ginger scan the RDAs for Lacey and Frigo and email them to Mark Stinson tomorrow.
- Discussed invasive weeds and run-off. Anne mentioned that some ponds are closed and people are not able to use the lakes.
- Chris found e-tablets reasonably priced. Suggests that we use the tablets for pictures and for notes in the field.
- Andy is going to check on the possibility of getting some tablets without purchasing them.

Old Business:

- Paul Philbin owes \$40 for the advertisement. Fran is going to hand deliver the NOI. Chris and Fran to call and make arrangements to get money and NOI.
- DEP # 184-129 Request to extend weed treatment for Hamilton Reservoir: Received a letter from the Board of Selectmen requesting that Conservation extend the NOI.
- **Motion: Anne made a motion that we discuss weed treatment and causes of weeds at a special meeting. Fran seconded.**
 - Discussion: Andy suggested that Anne attend a LOC meeting. LOC meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.
 - Chris suggested this be done in conjunction with the LOC.
- **Amendment to previous motion: Chris McCooe amended the motion to discuss weed treatment and causes of weeds at a joint meeting with LOC and ConCom. Second by Marcia Beal . All in favor. Motion passed.**
- Update on Brandon Cove: No additional information on Brandon Cove. Chris McCooe to follow-up with DEP regarding water quality and sediment testing.
- Update on Cormier: The OCC for 58 Morse Road was changed to reflect the newest site plan. An earlier site plan was sent to DEP in error. The OCC now reflects the plan that was approved by ConCom.
- Update on East Coast Tree Service: It was suggested that a tree be replanted for each tree that was cut down. Tree for tree may not work or be the best environmentally. Anne suggested that ConCom ask that they get an arborist for suggestions on replanting. Need to do a site visit.
- Site Visit to 8 Julia Ann Drive scheduled for Thursday 4/27/17 at 9:30 am (Fran, Marcia, Anne).
- Site visit to 24 Brandon St. scheduled for Thursday 4/27/17 at 9:30 (Fran, Marcia, Anne). Bring enforcement orders. **If there is a violation of wetlands protection act a Cease and Desist/Enforcement order will be issued.**
- Update on 39 Vinton Road: Site visit verified that the work to be done is outside the buffer zone. No need for an RDA. The contractor is willing to set up barriers and assure the resource area is protected.
- **Motion: Chris McCooe made a motion that we increase the charge for advertisements to \$60.00 per ad starting on May 1, 2017. Kathy McKenna Seconded. All in favor motion passed.**

New Business:

- Dennis Allard, Planning Board Chair, came to see Marcia regarding her question about dumping on Morse Road. He will follow up on this.
- Andy wants to know who pays for the Highway Ad. He was told to check with JoAnne Higgins and ask the Highway Dept. to pay for their ad.
- Andy is attending the free fundamentals classes on Saturday, April 29. Anne may also attend.

RDA--Public Meeting (7:30 pm)

RDA: Joe Frigo (12 Julia Ann Drive)

Meeting Opened at 7:30 pm.

Person's Attending: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCooe; Anne Hall; Joe Frigo

- **Discussion:** He has 7 hemlock trees on property that are diseased and they are dropping lots of branches. Joe is concerned about safety. Wants to put trees back to replace the ones he removes. He would replace with 7 trees using evergreens such as spruce, but probably would not plant hemlocks because they are prone to disease. Some of the trees may be in the buffer zone (approximately 50 feet from the water). Told that if the trunk is less than 6 inches it can be removed. Resource area to be protected. Stumps to remain in place and brush removed from property. Joe Frigo needs to provide ConCom with a pink sheet
- **Motion: Andy Harhay made a motion that we accept Joe Frigo's RDA proposal with a Negative Determination 3 with the conditions that the 7 trees are replaced with a variety of trees and additional shrubs, the resource area is protected, stumps to remain in place, and brush removed from the property. Chris McCooe seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**
- **Decision:** RDA Accepted with a Negative Determination 3.
- **Conditions:** 7 Trees to be replaced with a variety of trees. Additional shrubs to be planted. Protect resource area, stumps to remain in place and brush to be removed.
- Need 3 copies of RDA: 1 for DEP, 1 for Conservation, and 1 for applicant

Motion to close Joe Frigo's public meeting at 7:50 pm made by Kathy McKenna. Second by Andy Harhay. All in favor. Motion passed.

RDA Public Meeting 8:00 pm

RDA: Mike Lacey (56 Butterworth Road) 8:00 pm Map and Lot # 6-A-1.1

Meeting Opened at 8:03 pm.

Person's Attending: Chairperson Marcia Beal; Kathy McKenna; Andy Harhay; Fran Gallo; Chris McCooe; Anne Hall; Mike Lacey

- **Discussion:** Mike is doing a small addition off the back of the house on an already existing patio—no foundation work to be done. He is using techno metal posting—a form of a corkscrew. Much less invasive with no digging involved. Andy and Chris visited the site. Andy and Chris do not see a problem with this plan. There is a small intermittent wetland stream that needs protection. The man-made pond also requires protection. Chris spoke with Mark Stinson and he saw no problem.
- Mike Lacey gave Andy a check for \$40 for his ad.
- **Motion: Anne Hall made a motion to accept the RDA with a Negative Determination #3 with the condition that wetlands be protected with straw wattles. Andy Harhay seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**
- **Decision:** RDA accepted with a Negative Determination #3.
- **Conditions:** Wetland areas protected with straw wattles.
- Chris made 3 copies of the RDA
- **Motion to close the public meeting 8:20 pm made by Chris McCooe, Andy Harhay Seconded, all in favor motion passed.**

Walk-ins

William Turbush (189 Mashapaug Road): His property is hilly and there is a cement retaining wall on the water. He would like to plant bushes and create a Rock Garden on his grassy area to minimize the erosion. Chris went to see the property and noted that there would be no negative impact on the Resource Area.

Motion: Chris made a motion that William Turbush complete a pink sheet that would allow him to create the rock garden to eliminate erosion on his property. Anne seconded. All in favor—motion passed.

Ralph Donadio (19 Lakeridge Road) DEP 184-0334: Dropped off NOI for house construction (DEP # 184-0334). The hearing is scheduled for May 9, 2017 at 7 pm.

8:30 pm Mike Thibeault—Landscape Evolution Informational Meeting on Gypsy Moth Control

Mike brought handouts about what he is using to control Gypsy Moths. He uses Bt microbial insecticide. Bt is highly selective. Bt is a bacteria—it is a living organism. If ingested by the caterpillar, it takes several days and becomes toxic to them. Question: If you spray the leaves could it affect butterflies and moths. It lasts through one bad rainstorm. It is not a long-term treatment. It has been around since 1960. Bt is only harmful to the target caterpillars of Gypsy Moths. They are in the trees only at this time of the year. Will not affect caterpillars and moths unless they are in the caterpillar stage. Gypsy moth caterpillars are generally around from the beginning of May to mid-May. Mike is concerned about the complete defoliation on Wales Road. This has happened two years in a row. He is concerned that the trees are being compromised. UMass recommends Bt and another product (Spinsad). Mike indicated that he prefers Bt because it is safer in areas with lakes, streams, wetlands, etc. Mike feels that this year's infestation will be worse than last year. Bt is not harmful to pets. Banding the trees prevents new caterpillars from invading an area that has already been sprayed. Both products are not restricted use products. Anyone can spray using Spinsad or Bt microbial. Spinsad is toxic to bees. These products can be obtained on-line, at Clems, County Line, and Agway. These are more effective than insecticide soaps. Mike Thibeault charges \$100 per tree. Andy said that he talked with Sturbridge Conservation and they are not doing anything as a town to control the Gypsy Moth infestation.

UPDATE: Marcia asked Landscape Evolution if any work was being done at the Blanchette property. Mike Thibeault noted that the wall by the water was completed last fall.

Next Meeting Date: May 9, 2017

Suggested Agenda Items:

- 6:30 pm Dennis Allard, Planning Board Chair is going to review the 19 Lakeridge Plan.
- Public Hearing 7:00 Ralph Donadio (House Plans NOI)
- Update on site visit 24 Brandon Street.
- Update on site visit Julia Ann Drive
- Discuss the best way to use clerical support

Motion to adjourn made by Fran Gallo at 9:15pm. Anne Hall Seconded. All in favor—motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kathy McKenna

CC: Select Board, Town Clerk, Board of Health, Planning Board, Building Inspector, Highway Surveyor, Zoning Board of Appeals, File and HCC Chairperson, Board Clerk