

**Holland Conservation Commission  
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland MA 01521**

**Minutes of Conservation Commission held on  
October 9, 2018**

**Members Present:** Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Sam Spratlin; Kathy McKenna; Kaitlin Desmarais; Jessica Chaffee; Anne Hall.

**Clerk:** Ginger Buteau

**Guest:** Bettina Schmidt, Chairperson - Select Board

**Members Absent:** Marcia Beal

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Andy Harhay**

**Approval of Minutes from 9/25/2018: Approval of minutes will be delayed until the next meeting.**

**Email Correspondence:**

- 9/25/2018: Reminder to register for MACC's Fall Conference
- 9/26/2018: Emails between Andy and Glenn Krevosky regarding the need to submit weekly reports on 1 Leno Road/Soper Property. Report submitted to ConCom on 9/26/2018.
- 9/27/2018: From Andy to Sharon Ashleigh regarding Conservation appointments for FY19.
- 9/28/2018: Pioneer Valley Progress Report for September 2018
- 9/28/2018: To and From Andy Harhay to Stephen Soper and Glenn Krevosky regarding footprint change for 1 Leno Rd.
- 10/2/2018: From FEMA noting that its pre-disaster mitigation program offers eligibility for green infrastructure mitigation activities.
- 10/2/2018: Mass Wildlife Monthly for October.
- 10/3/2018: DEP assigned NOI # 184-0353 to the Friends of the HRA for Lots 73 and 74 on Shore Drive.
- 10/5/2018: From Cheri asking about cutting trees within 100 feet from the Lake. Andy responded.
- 10/5/2018: Andy's emails regarding Anne's concern about the possibility of water being pumped from the Soper Property/1 Leno Road into the stream, which was determined not to be the case. Highway Department personnel determined that the rise in pond level was due to a blocked culvert and very heavy rains.
- 10/6/2018: Andy's email to ConCom members with the agenda and important attachments to review prior to the October 9 meeting.

**Emergency Work Repair for the Highway Department:** Andy discussed the problem that happened at 1 Leno Road. The Highway Department is repairing the culvert. The culvert should be repaired by Thursday. Kaitlin expressed concern about the lack of erosion control barriers used by the Highway Department when doing this work. She also noted that once

the culverts in other areas had been dug out, there did not seem to be erosion controls used or planting of grass when work is completed.

**COC for NOI #184-0274/Chris Wsolek, 95 Maybrook Rd/Completed Septic Installation:** Jessica made a motion to issue a COC for this project. Andy seconded. All in favor motion passed. **COC signed by ConCom.**

**COC for NOI #184-0178/Randy and Colleen Lord, 90 Sturbridge Rd./house constructed by Elias Hanna in 2004:** Kaitlin made a motion to approve the COC for this project. Sam seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. **COC signed by ConCom.**

**Representative to Lake Oversight Committee:** Kaitlin offered to attend as the ConCom representative. Jessica and Sam said they would step in if she couldn't attend. **Anne made a motion for Kaitlin to be ConCom's representative to the LOC with Sam or Jessica to attend if she is unable. Sam Seconded. All in favor motion passed.**

**Review draft of Tree Cutting Policy:** Kaitlin will have a draft for the next meeting. She sent an email to members right before tonight's meeting with a first draft. Andy noted that we will be getting a lot more requests for tree cutting due to Gypsy Moth infestation. He talked about concerns for trees along the roadways and in public places.

#### **6:45 PM Public Meeting/RDA Review**

**Mike Harpin/8 Brandon Street—manual repair of lakefront wall during drawdown\_ Meeting opened at 6:50 pm.**

**Persons in attendance:** Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Sam Spratlin; Kathy McKenna; Kaitlin Desmarais; Jessica Chaffee; Anne Hall; Bettina Schmidt; Mike Hairpin

**Discussion:** Mike wants to repair a wall with fieldstone. The wall surrounds a culvert that is either 14 or 16 inches. He plans to do all the digging by hand and use small stones and a fabric barrier to keep the sediment from going into the lake. He plans to plant 3-4 shrubs when the wall is completed.

**Motion:** Jessica Chaffee made a motion to accept this RDA with a negative determination #3, with the conditions that 3-4 shrubs be planted and any dirt be kept on grass away from lake bed and covered to prevent erosion. Kaitlin seconded. All in favor, motion passed. **RDA was signed by ConCom.**

#### **7:00 PM Public Hearing: NOI # 184-0352**

**John Pucci/280 Mashpaug Road**

**Project: Remove 5 dead trees, build 2 retaining walls and a patio area and plan shrubs. Public Hearing opened at 7:00 pm.**

**Persons in attendance:** Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Sam Spratlin; Kathy McKenna; Kaitlin Desmarais; Jessica Chaffee; Anne Hall; Bettina Schmidt; John Pucci

**Discussion:** John described the dead trees and their locations. Andy asked John to mark the trees prior to ConCom making a site visit. He talked about wanting to do some landscaping

by the water. He wants to create a patio area that will require leveling the land. The landscaper will use a mini excavator and what can't be reached with the excavator will be dug by hand. The patio will be done with patio blocks. Kaitlin asked what he meant by removal of overgrowth. Asked to have his landscaper email Andy with how he plans to create the stairway into the water and what equipment he will be planning to use. ConCom members will make a site visit next week after the trees to be removed have been flagged and the landscaper answers our plan questions.

**Decision:** Jessica made a motion to continue this NOI to the next meeting. Kaitlin seconded all in favor, motion passed.

**John Pucci's NOI hearing will be continued at the next meeting, October 23, 2018.**

**7:30 PM: Hear proposal from Stephen Soper re NOI#184-0295 for 1 Leno Road**  
**Proposal: Consider offer to install a stormwater dry well system for approval to enlarge foundation footprint from 24' x 36' to 24' x 40'**

**Persons in attendance:** Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Sam Spratlin; Kathy McKenna; Kaitlin Desmarais; Jessica Chaffee; Anne Hall; Bettina Schmidt; Stephen Soper

**Meeting opened at 7:37 pm:** Stephen Soper wants an additional 96 square feet for his house. The additional square footage would be on the side away from the wetlands. In exchange for this increase, he would install a dry well system and gutters to prevent stormwater runoff. The house size revision is within the current building envelope and does not infringe on any setbacks. He has approvals from the Building Commissioner to make this change. He presented a letter from Bertin Engineering that talks about how the stormwater system will benefit the wetlands. Anne does not want a decision made until Marcia is able to attend the meeting. Anne feels that this property is going to flood in the future and wants ConCom to table the decision. Andy noted that Mark Stinson's concern was that water was being pumped from the property to the stream which was not the case. The water came from a blocked culvert that the highway department is repairing. Kaitlin said that a stormwater system would be a benefit to the wetlands. Jessica and Sam agreed. Kathy wanted to be sure that Soper was complying with all the previously set conditions.

**Motion:** Jessica made a motion to approve the addition of 96 square feet as long as Stephen Soper creates a dry well to address stormwater runoff, per plans dated 10/3/18 and comes back to ConCom with a planting/mitigation plan. Kaitlin seconded. 5 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion passed.

**Decision:** The increase in square footage was deemed not to be significant when compared to the environmental gain with the dry well system.

**NOTE:** After the vote, Anne got up to leave the meeting and told Selectwoman Schmidt that she was resigning from the Conservation Commission. Selectwoman Schmidt told Anne that she accepted her resignation. Anne left the meeting.

### **WALK-INS:**

**Laura Pucci, 334 Mashapaug Road:** She has a large Oak tree about 15 feet from the lake that is dead. Laura had an arborist look at it, and he felt it presented a danger. Laura already planted a maple tree last summer in anticipation of having to take down the oak tree. She would need to leave the oak stump in place. She was asked to mitigate with one more planting. The tree is about 15 feet from the lake. She will complete the RDA so she can be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Other Business:**

- Andy shared the Forest Cutting Plan that DCR sent us for Walker and Barney Road.
- Per Anne's request we discussed the feasibility of a Conservation Agent.
- Ginger had some questions about filling out the OOC for O'Mara.
- O'Mara's OOC was completed and signed by ConCom members.

**Adjournment: Kathy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sam Spratlin seconded. All in favor, motion passed.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy McKenna, Conservation Secretary