

Holland Conservation Commission
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland MA 01521
Minutes of Conservation Commission held on August 27, 2019

Members Present: Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Kathy McKenna; Sam Spratlin; Marcia Beal; Dawn Kamay **Clerk:** Ginger Buteau **Guest:** Jeff Frohn, 17 Leisure Drive
Members Absent: Kaitlin Laabs; Jessica Chaffee

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Andy Harhay, Chair

Approval of Minutes from 8/13/2019: Dawn pointed out a typographical error that was corrected. Sam made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Marcia seconded. All in favor; motion passed

Email Correspondence:

- 8/15/2019: At our August 13, 2019 meeting, the commissioners endorsed recommending to the Board of Selectmen that Dawn Kamay of 2 N. Leisure Drive be appointed to fill the current vacant position on the Commission. Mrs. Kamay has attended three of our past meetings to get a sense of our mission and the significant volunteer time necessary to effectively partner with MassDEP in protecting Holland's environmental resources. Commissioners think that she will be an excellent addition to the Commission.
- 8/16-8/19/2019: To and from Brian Johnson, Highway Dept. to ConCom and Mark Stinson re May Brook Road meeting being moved from Tuesday to Thursday. Mark Stinson asked if the wetland delineation had been done yet and confirmed he could meet on Thursday.
- 8/19-8/21/2019: To and from JoAnne Higgins, ConCom and Mark Stinson regarding OOC for bundled town highway projects. Mark responded that usually bundled orders don't get recorded. If the commission pushes to get it recorded, it could be placed on the town hall book and page, or the highway garage book and page
- 8/20/2019: From Andy Harhay to Brian Johnson following up on Mark Stinson's question as to whether Mark Farrell or another specialist has been hired to perform the wetland delineation. He also asked to be notified when the work is scheduled as some ComCom members and the Sturbridge Agent are interested in observing the process.
- 8/20/2019: From DEP with File # 184-0365 for work at 23 Shore Drive/Creative Exteriors.
- 8/22/2019: From Police Chief Haughey with information regarding the Mass DOT Roadway Construction Project on Brimfield Road in Holland. The Project is scheduled to begin in September of 2019 and may last through November of 2019. The project consists of reclamation of the roadway, improvements to intersections, removing and replacing of drainage pipes and other related work. The project is expected to impede traffic in this area and there may be detours in place at times.
- 8/22/2019: From Mark Stinson with a list of minor exemptions that apply to buffer zone or riverfront areas only.
- 8/19/2019: From Mark Stinson requesting pictures for 33 Island Road NOI.
- 8/22/2019: From DEP with File # 184-0366 for work to be done on 33 Island Road.
- 8/24/2019: From Andy Harhay to MACC with contact information for Dawn Kamay, the newest member of ConCom.

- 8/25/2019: Andy's response to JoAnne Higgins regarding a complaint from #41 Craig Road. Andy took a look at the beach area of the right-of-way on Craig Road did not note any Conservation issues when he viewed the area.
- 8/26/2019: From Brian Haughey with attached maps indicating the routes for AM and PM drop-off and pick-up at the Holland Elementary School.
- 8/26/2019: From Laurie Bartkus with Expenditure Reports.
- 8/26/2019: From Andy Harhay to Chris McCooe regarding digging in the lake bed and the need to come to ConCom for permitting as it is not exempt under the Weed Treatment/ Drawdown NOI. He hopes to correct any misinformation that has been given to HRA members.

Phone Messages: No new phone messages

Tree Removal Applications: No new tree removal applications.

Leno Road Repaving Project:

- Members were in support of the Enforcement Order signed by Andy Harhay.
- **Sam made a motion to approve the Enforcement Order; Kathy McKenna seconded. All in favor, motion passed. Enforcement order was signed by members.**
- Andy noted that the Leno Road work can be continued under the emergency certification. The wording on the special conditions is that a restoration plan for reclamation of the wetlands will be submitted to HCC within 30 days of when Andy signed the Emergency Certification. The due date for the restoration plan is 9/24/2019.
- **Kathy made a motion that Conservation agree to the Emergency Certification developed for the Leno Road Repaving Project. Sam seconded, all in favor motion passed. Emergency certification was signed by members.**

May Brook Road Repaving Project: Tony Woneski, P.E. with SVE Associates will be responsible for developing the plans, permitting the project and having a specialist do the wetland delineation for the May Brook Road Project.

Extension for Bundled NOI:

- JoAnne Higgins and Brian Johnson filed a one year extension for the Bundled NOI. This extension will be good until 9/27/2020. Sam asked what projects will fall under the bundled NOI. Brian said that the bundled NOI is for routine maintenance. The Leno Road Project falls under the bundled NOI. Tony Woneski has had the wetlands delineation completed on Leno Road.
- Brian said that there are two projects coming up that require NOIs—May Brook Road and the culvert on the small causeway. Mark Stinson said the culvert is a simple project but will need a NOI. Brian wants to do this project during the drawdown.
- **Kathy made a motion to extend the Bundled NOI to 9/27/2020, Sam Seconded. All in favor, motion passed. Bundled NOI extension was signed by members.**

Review site visits made since last meeting: Creative Exteriors was doing work at 23 Shore Drive that included wall repair and work on the house. No permits were issued for either of the projects. The owner thought Creative Exteriors had gotten the permit and Creative Exte-

riors thought the owner was getting the permits. Jeff felt that it was the contractor's responsibility to assure that there was a permit obtained. Conservation is requiring a NOI for the work that has been and is being done. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Plan for site visits needed prior to the next meeting: Jackie & Scott Haley/33 Island Road want to rebuild their break wall, as it is leaning toward the lake. An excavator will be used to trench behind the wall, so the project will require an NOI.

Roundtable Discussion:

- Jeff Frohn commented that the small culvert project could be accomplished with a 2-3 foot drawdown, if a coffer dam is used to isolate the work area.
- Andy discussed the idea of ConCom donating an evergreen tree to the community, replacing the original tree that had been in front of the Library but died a few years ago. The tree had been used as a focal point for holiday events. Landscape Evolution provided a proposal to plant a 10-12' Fraser Fir. Dawn Kamay and Marcia Beal will research whether a retailer might be willing to donate a tree.

**7:00 PM—Ed Hood/Opacum Land Trust
Emerald Forest Borderlands Application**

- Ed first updated us on the Sichel property and the fact that the paperwork is progressing. Ed is advising the town on moving forward with acquiring the grants.
- He came in to talk about another conservation effort, The Emerald Forest Borderlands Forest Legacy Project that encompasses a 30,000 acre region from Dudley to Hampden. The purpose is to keep currently forested land as forest. This involves a national application process for funding and Ed will complete the application for 8 different properties, one of which is in Holland. The land in Holland is about 60 acres. Part of the property is wetlands and there is an important stream on the property. The parcel in Holland is the second smallest in the group. Ed explained that the property will still be owned privately, but the owners will give up their development rights. If and when the property is sold, it may not be converted to a non-forest use. Opacum works with a willing landowner so that the property cannot be developed. Ed would like the Holland Conservation Commission to agree in principal to hold a Conservation Restriction on the property in Holland, which allows the application process to continue. If the project is funded, the overall proposal will be brought back to the town for approval by the Board of Selectmen. Ed noted that conservation restrictions are legal documents. As part of the grant, the USDA Forest Service will appraise the property, make the offer to the owner, and pay for a survey. Ed Hood has to meet an application deadline of September 9, 2019. Conservation members were in strong support of Opacum and this application.

Motion: Kathy McKenna made a motion that the Conservation Commissioners show their strong support for the Emerald Forest Borderlands Forest Legacy Project proposal and give the Chairperson, Andy Harhay, permission to sign a letter of support from the HCC, so this application can be submitted on a timely basis. Sam seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Adjournment:

- Sam moved to adjourn the meeting; Marcia seconded. All in favor; motion passed.
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McKenna, Secretary