

**Holland Conservation Commission**  
**27 Sturbridge Road, Holland MA 01521**  
**Minutes of Conservation Commission held on November 26, 2019**

**Members Present:** Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Kathy McKenna; Marcia Beal; Jessica Chaffee (arrived at 6:55 pm); Dawn Kamay; Kaitlin Laabs; Sam Spratlin     **Clerk:** Ginger Buteau

**Members Absent:** None

**Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Andy Harhay, Chair**

**Approval of Minutes from 11/12/2019:** Minutes unanimously approved with 1 correction.

**Approval of Minutes from 11/20/2019:** Marcia moved to approve as written, all in favor motion passed.

**Email Correspondence:**

- 11/1/2019: From Douglas Columb/20 Old Acres Road with an attached complaint letter regarding his concern about Waterfront Trespass and Waterfront Disturbance. It was also sent to the Holland Select Board.
- 11/4/2019: From Joseph Coan with a question concerning the RDA form and a proposed project. Andy scheduled him on the next ConCom Agenda.
- 11/4/2019: Forwarded attachments regarding the complaint letter from Douglas Columb.
- 11/7-11/8/2019: Email from Kathy McKenna to Rich Rivet regarding the site visit to 50 Stony Hill Road and Rich's response to ConCom.
- 11/8, 11/14/2019: From Laurie Bartkus with expenditure report attached.
- 11/12/2019: From Mark Stinson regarding raking/digging in lake bed during drawdown
- 11/13/2019: From Eliza and Christopher Livingston, residing at 12 Sutcliffe Rd. The reason for this message is a complaint about runoff water coming from Mr. Burlingame, their immediate neighbor. They feel the logging over the past 5 years on the Burlingame property is contributing to the run-off problem. (Andy responded and forwarded the email to DCR).
- 11/18/2019: From Chris McCooe asking when the causeway work is done will the lake level drawdown be raised to 2 feet.
- 11/14-11/21: Multiple emails to and from Chris McCooe, Andy Harhay, and Ernie Fancy regarding the draw down depth and residents experiencing problems with their wells. It was suggested that the Select Board do a survey to find out locations of those experiencing loss of water.
- 11/21/2019: From Chris McCooe noting that plan is to allow the lake to recover back to the typical 24" target level. She also noted that the dam outflow is minimum necessary to maintain required flow in stream. Timeframe for recovery depends on rainfall, but it'll probably take a week.

- 11/22/2019: The Fall 2019 *Conservation Quarterly*, the MACC member magazine, is now available.
- 11/22/2019: From Bryan Haughey asking all departments not to forward requests to him from those who want to opt out of CODE RED. He said that individuals themselves have to initiate the opt out via this link: <https://info.onsolve.com/Notification-Opt-Out.html>.
- 11/22/2019: From Patty Gambarini regarding an opportunity through the New England Landscape futures (NELF) Explorer (<https://newenglandlandscapes.org>).
- 11/22/2019: From Bryan Haughey with an attachment regarding the 22 Old Acres Road complaint.
- 11/23/2019: Chris McCooe forwarded information from Solitude Lake Management regarding getting a body of water ready for winter with ways to support the health of the lake and animals living in the lake.
- 11/23/2019: Marcia Lee's question and Andy Harhay's response to her.
- 11/23/2019: From Marian Poe-Heineman regarding lake drawdown and the fact that they have been without water for several days.

**Phone Messages:** No discussion of messages

**Review site visits made since last meeting:**

Site visit to Sam Spratlin/19 Lee Ave. for removal of 3 trees to be replaced with 3 birch trees. Application approved.

**Plan site visits need prior to next meeting:**

Michael Sherman/41 Sandy Beach Road—removal of 7 trees. Sam, Jessica and Marcia will make the site visit.

**Round Table:**

- **Budget Status:** Andy gave an update on the budget status. Because Ginger was acting interim town clerk, she was unable to provide the budgeted payroll hours to Conservation. Marcia felt we might need some of the money from the wetland and revolving funds to hire consultants if needed. Andy asked us to read the financial information and think about what we want to do.
- **NOI Paperwork:** Andy noted that sometimes the NOI paperwork for the Registry may have differing page numbers from the electronic submittal. Conservation members need to wait until the electronic submittal is accepted and printed out before it is given to the applicant to take to the Registry of Deeds.
- **Road Work Concern:** Andy said Mark Stinson contacted him because the DEP got an irate phone call (anonymous) regarding Over-the-Top Road that said sand was coming down the road and into the lake. Jessica raised concerns that the road work was not done according to the plan.
- **Jurisdictional Highway Dept. Projects:** General discussion occurred regarding how to effectively monitor highway projects that are within our jurisdiction. Concerns have been

on-going about culvert cleaning and repairs and adherence to conditions of the NOI projects and/or in the bundled NOI. Andy asked members to think of modifications to the bundled NOI that could strengthen conformance to regulations...a new NOI needs to be submitted in Fall 2020. It was suggested that perhaps we inform the Highway Department now that Conservation is considering requiring Highway to hire a wetland consultant to monitor certain projects.

### **WALK-INS**

**7:00 PM/Appointment with Stephen Soper to discuss potential RDA:** Stephen Soper does not need to attend because he subsequently did an actual measurement and determined that the planned work is outside the buffer zone—130 feet from the lake.

**Doug & Peggy Columb/20 Old Acres Road:** He made a formal complaint that a neighbor has been digging in the waterfront. Andy noted that Conservation had issued an enforcement order on November 11, 2019, and a NOI was supposed to be filed with ComCom by December 10, 2019. As of this meeting, there has been no response to the enforcement order.

Conservation cannot intervene on the issue of the material dumped on his property as this is a civil matter. It was suggested that the Columb's consider pursuing a civil action if they are very concerned. Doug would like a copy of the Enforcement Order and was given a copy of the letter from Bryan Haughey; the letter had been sent to 20 Old Acres, but there is no mailbox at that property.

Doug wanted to know how he can clean and dredge his water front area in the future. Andy explained that Conservation could possibly issue an RDA for him to remove the leaves and muck from the property by hand. Doug asked that if all the neighbors to agree on cleaning up their waterfront by hand dredging could this be done. Andy said we would need a plan and they would have to present their plan to ConCom.

**Adjournment:** Jessica made a motion to adjourn, Sam seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McKenna, Secretary