

Holland Conservation Commission
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521

HCC Minutes for March 22, 2022

Note: This meeting was conducted on-line with some participants in the Conservation office in Town Hall. The remote participant used Go-To-Meeting. The meeting was recorded.

Members attending: Dawn Kamay, Jessica Wales, Samuel Spratlin, Agent George Russell, Marcia Beal, Rick Lundin in the Conservation Office.

Member Attending Remotely: Kaitlin Laabs at 7:00 PM on Go To Meeting.

Guests: Mike Burns of 242 Mashapaug Road; Brian Johnson, Holland Highway Department; Seth Davis, Contractor, S&A Innovations for Beverly Davis of 7 Craig Road; Peter and Jeanne Faria of 107 Sandy Beach Road.

Dawn Kamay called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The minutes from March 8, 2022 were reviewed and Sam Spratlin made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Rick Lundin seconded the motion, and all approved.

Phone messages and correspondence were reviewed. Agent George Russell brought to our attention that while the Holland Highway Department is the permittee of the Brimfield Road project, the State actually took it over after the permit was issued, completed the project and supervised all construction activities. Highway Department Supervisor Brian Johnson later confirmed this during the Highway Department discussion portion of the meeting.

Site visits made:

Sam Spratlin and Dawn Kamay visited the Bruce Vinokur property at 5 Old Colony Road – RDA for a deck and stairs, and the property of Beverly Rollins of 7 Craig Road - RDA for partial deck replacement.

Planned site visit: Scott Roman's tree take down request

Round Table:

NOI # 184-0398 – 242 Mashapaug Road – Jessica Wales suggested an amendment be added via the minutes to the OOC for a trench for an electrical conduit to the well. This was not part of the original orders but it has been requested by the applicant, Michael Burns, who was present. Michael also wants to rebuild the existing stairs with no additional land disturbance. Agent George Russell suggested the minutes reflect the stair replacement and should be added to this OOC via the minutes as well. No official vote was taken.

7:01 PM - Public Meeting – RDA – Seth Davis represented Beverly Rollins of 7 Craig Road for a partial deck replacement with four new precast piers. Construction will be approximately 70 feet from the lake. The contractor will dig holes for the piers and lift and set them. This will be a one day installation with erosion control wattles put in place. The contractor will be working with the Holland Building Inspector and will provide photographs for her. Sam Spratlin made a motion to close the meeting, which Rick Lundin seconded and all approved. Sam Spratlin then made a motion to issue a negative determination 3. Dawn Kamay seconded the motion and all approved.

7:17 PM – Public meeting – RDA for Bruce Vinokur of 5 Old Colony Road, who was represented by contractor Derick from N. M. Construction. Jessica Wales recused herself from this hearing. Dawn Kamay advised Derick that he was being recorded. The deck and stairs will be replaced because a tree came down on them. The deck and stairs have already been removed. The contractor stated Technoposts will be used. This will be an exact footprint replacement. A silt fence and wattles will be in place. Sam Spratlin made a motion to close the hearing at 7:21 and Dawn Kamay seconded, all approved. Sam Spratlin then made a motion to issue a negative determination 3, which Dawn Kamay seconded and all approved.

Emergency Order for 107 Sandy Beach Road for a collapsing retaining wall. Jessica Wales recused herself as she is a neighbor. Dawn Kamay advised everyone the meeting was being recorded. Creative Exteriors is doing the work. Property owners Peter and Jeanne Faria were present to present the project. Agent George Russell recommended this be granted as a wall replacement/rebuild only, and for safety reasons. Discussion followed about a rounded seating area on the north side of the building. The homeowners claimed this seating area was not part of the planned work but represented an area on the adjoining property. They were told that any work that was not part of this emergency replacement/rebuilding of the failing wall would require another visit to the Commission. There is a 30 day period for completing the work. The start date of the Emergency Order is March 28, 2022, but if the work is not complete the owner can come in to the April 26th meeting of the Commission to request an extension. Rick Lundin made a motion to approve the Emergency Order and Sam Spratlin seconded, all approved.

7:22 PM – Brian Johnson, representing the Holland Highway Department discussed projects with the Conservation Commission. Agent George Russell prepared a report on the projects which will be included with the minutes. This report was the basis for the following discussions.

It was noted Brandon Cove has had many complaints about sand filling into the lake. Discussion followed about the catch basins, the working of the retention pond and its abilities. Brian Johnson confirmed the excessive flooding of #10 and #12 Brandon came from the stream running under the road. Brian reminded the Commission this was all private property and would require extensive measures to correct the flooding and sediment. Brian said a short term solution would be to dredge the allowed 300 cubic yards of sand. Brian also noted the wakes made by large boats are also contributing to sedimentation because of bank erosion. Kaitlin Laabs suggested the urgent need for a replacement grant writer. Town Administrator Stacy Stout is now actively serving as grant writer. Dawn Kamay suggested we write the Holland Select Board asking a grant be applied for to perform a study to fix the Brandon Cove issues. Jessica Wales suggested the homeowners be notified that we will suggest grant money be applied for to study and fix the issues. Agent George Russell will generate this correspondence.

Brian Johnson is looking into paving Forest Court, a private road which supplies much of the sand and debris flowing into the properties on the west side of Over The Top Road which can be modified by paving.

A similar problem exists on Sandy Beach Road which must become a town road before work can be done.

At 48 Over The Top Road, it was established the work there was changed from the original plans. This was because of the unexpected presence of ledge and a leach field. The original plan called for the entire drainage work to be underground and included a third catch basin that could not be installed because of the ledge. Brian insisted the best solution was to pave Forest Road, a private road above the project, to reduce sedimentation carry, but was not sure how to completely fix the problem. He will ask a new engineer on the Union Road project about plantings and placement of boulders to reduce water velocity.

At 10 Over The Top Road, the residents would like a pipe to be installed along the side of their property to stop the erosion caused by a greater volume of water now running in the open ditch beside their house. The engineer for Union Road is looking at this issue and should have an answer for us shortly.

On Brimfield Road, the designs submitted by the Highway Department were rejected by the Massachusetts DOT which insisted upon using theirs. It was never closed out and Mass DOT never established who was supposed to do the maintenance. A COC was submitted but it was denied by the Commission since we are still trying to get the engineer from Mass DOT to certify the project was properly completed. The Holland Highway Department will only do maintenance.

Brian Johnson said the Highway Department will clear the culvert clog issue on both sides of the road. Agent George Russell noted we need a copy of the O&M plan for Highway to maintain the culvert. Kaitlin Laabs suggested the Commission grant the Highway Department permission to maintain the area around the road improvement. Jessica Wales suggested it be done under the bundled highway maintenance NOI. Kaitlin noted the new bundled NOI was never signed by the Highway Department, and suggested the Highway Department sign it and get it filed with the signature. Agent George Russell will continue to work towards getting the Mass DOT information.

95 Leno Road - the permit expired in 2019. This was an emergency reconstruction project. The Highway Department went to the Select Board for permission to work on the project, per Brian Johnson. The engineering company needs to certify plantings and a meeting will be set up with Brian Johnson, the engineer (SVE) and the Conservation Commission to complete the project. Brian Johnson will contact SVE regarding this joint meeting/inspection.

Maybrook Road is to be topped and bermed this year per Brian Johnson and the silt fence and wattles will be rectified.

184-0277 – Brian Johnson noted the culvert under Mashapaug Road for Amber Brook water was sleeved and relined. Jessica Wales noted there was extreme sedimentation at this exit point. This problem will be brought to the attention of the Select Board as an area of high sedimentation, along with other road areas.

Brandon Cove, Maybrook Road, Pine Tree Road and Amber Brook Road areas of concern will be given to the Select Board for consideration.

Discussion of Sandy Beach Road – Jessica Wales believed this was part of the 319 grant money already received from the State, but Brian Johnson disagreed. The Highway Department will be doing small fixes to make the road passable. Brian pointed out that fixing requires jumping a lot of hurdles, such as getting permission to infringe upon private properties for road widening.

Pine Tree Road – Issue of sedimentation from water running into the cove at the bottom of the Town property there. Brian Johnson said he would look into it and it should be an inexpensive fix.

Brian Johnson suggested the Town dredge the lake in sections based upon the severity of shallowness. Everyone agreed stopping sedimentation was the key.

Dawn Kamay suggested a letter be sent to a person on Sturbridge Road to remove the piles of cutting and brush next to the bank of the brook. Agent George Russell will see how many feet from the bank should remain free of cuttings and brush.

Brief discussion of beaver activity on Stevens Brook causing flooding of back yards. Because beavers are a protected species there is a complex process to remove them and dismantle a beaver dam.

The meeting with the highway department was completed.

A motion to grant the COC at 38 Island Road (184-0364) for a septic system was moved by Sam Spratlin, seconded by Dawn Kamay and all approved, with Rick Lundin abstaining. The COC was signed at the meeting.

Jessica Wales stepped down as Chairperson and Dawn Kamay assumed the position. She was previously voted in with training by Jessica. Jessica will remain a member of the HCC but will take a leave of absence to have her baby. We are all grateful for all the work she has done.

New Business:

the Agent's position needs to be renewed.

9:30 – Sam Spratlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Rick Lundin and all approved.

The agent's report is attached to and made part of the minutes.

Marcia Beal
Secretary