

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

Minutes of Conservation Commission held on May 22, 2018

Members Present: Chairperson, Andy Harhay; Jessica Chaffee; Kathy McKenna; Sam Spratlin; Anne Hall; Chris McCoee

- **Clerk:** Ginger Buteau
- **Members Absent:** Marcia Beal
- **Guest Present:** Jennifer Ohop
- **Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Andy Harhay**

Read and approve minutes:

- **Minutes of May 8, 2018: Anne Hall made a motion to accept the minutes as correct-ed. Sam seconded. All in favor, motion passed.**

Email Correspondence:

- 5/10/2018: From the Last Green Valley asking for leaders for the Walktober. Deadline to sign up is June 1, 2018.
- 5/14/2018: From Ginger Buteau with a reminder about the date agendas are due. Also from Andy to Ginger about the cost of legal notices in Worcester T & G, and Ginger's response to Andy.
- 5/16/2018: Reminder to register for Housing Institute on June 6 & 7.
- 5/14/2018: From Ginger Buteau reminding all boards that the second Tuesday in June (6/12) is voting and we cannot hold board meetings,
- 5/14/2018: From Kelli Robbins saying that on 5/22/2018 the IT Tech will be available to help employees set up their phones and laptops to connect with Cox Business Email
- 5/17/2018: From Joy Duperault notifying us that the deadline for EPA's newest water infrastructure financing opportunity.
- 5/17/2018: Jean Curtis from Charlton Well stating that the containment barriers have been installed at 2 Colette Drive and wanting ConCom to make a site visit and notify Charlton Well when the work can proceed.
- 5/18/2018: From Michele Girard regarding free workshop on June 30th about Conservation Commissioners' role in implementing forest cutting plans.
- 5/18/2018: Letter of resignation from Chris McCoee to be effective at the end of her term (6/30/2018).
- 5/20/2018: From Nikhila Fanta Harijan via ziprecruiter with attached resume for Outreach Worker.
- 5/20/2018: From Andy Harhay to Steve Soper regarding message he left on Friday 5/18/2018 about wanting to begin work on the site next week. Andy's reply strongly suggested meeting to review the OOC for NOI #184-295 since the OOC is quite extensive and the site is environmentally sensitive.

Phone Calls/Messages:

- 5/18/2018: Phone message from Steve Soper. (*Andy returned call*)

Order of Business: Jen Ohop, Holland resident representing Opacum Land Trust

- Jen discussed the Sichel property, and asked for ConCom's support. ConCom signatures are necessary for Opacum to apply for the LAND Grant for the ~160-170 acres of the Sichel property that will be devoted to open space. It would be owned by the Town of Holland with Opacum as the overseer to assure that it is forever protected as valuable open space. The LAND Grant funds, will not apply to the approximately 20-30 acres along the road that the Town hopes to purchase and develop. Jen plans to complete the LAND Grant application and get community support. This proposed purchase will need to come before a Town Meeting and be voted on. Since the Town will have to initially fund the purchase of the entire property, Andy wanted to know if it's possible that the Town not receive grant reimbursement after purchasing the property. Jen noted that Town would know that they have been awarded the grant before any vote takes place. The Town will need to pay for the appraisal of the property which would cost about \$2,000.00 according to Jen. Chris wanted to know who would apply for grants possibly applicable to the smaller portion of the parcel. Jen Ohop said that Opacum would only write the LAND Grant application for the open space portion; it would be up to the Town of Holland to determine how to use the front 20 – 30 acre parcel and to apply for grants to help pay for it. Jessica wanted to know what might happen to this 20 acre parcel of property before agreeing to the Land Grant. It was noted that Bettina Schmidt has applied for a grant to study the needs of Holland's senior population, and that it would ultimately be up to the Town to decide how to use the land. Jen would like to have unanimous support from ConCom prior to writing the application for the LAND Grant. Conservation members wanted to review sections 1-7 of the application. Each member will review the application and respond to Andy by Friday, May 25, so he can send along the signature page to Jen Ohop.

Motion: Anne Hall made a motion that ConCom support Opacum Land Trust to apply for a LAND Grant for the Sichel Property. Sam Spratlin seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Membership update:

- Chris McCooe has requested in writing not to be reappointed at the end of her term on June 30, 2018. She would like to devote her volunteer time to the Lake Oversight Committee and the Hamilton Reservoir Association.
- **Jessica Chaffee made a motion that we put forth Kate Desmarais for appointment as a ConCom Commissioner. Sam Spratlin seconded. All in favor, motion passed.**
- Since Chris is currently the Conservation representative to the LOC, we will need to propose another member for LOC.

Open Space Map: Anne shared the map of land parcels and showed the properties donated to the Town under Conservation's stewardship. Jen Ohop wrote the Open Space and Recreation Plan with Howie Fife. Anne thought that ConCom should assume a broader approach as to its environmental responsibilities.

Member Comments/Roundtable:

- Andy briefly discussed an email received from Stephen Soper about his company wanting to move forward on developing the former Hanna property at Sturbridge and Leno Roads. The

OOO was approved by Conservation in December 2014. Members reviewed the OOO and had some questions.

- Andy asked everyone to review the OOO because ConCom will be responsible to ensure that the conditions are met.
- Andy will check to see if ConCom can have a regularly scheduled meeting on June 12. If not he might set an alternate date for the meeting.

Walk-ins:

Lauren Barker, 17 Lakeridge: She wanted to discuss options for her waterfront wall. It is a natural rock wall that is eroding. She wants to reorganize some of the rocks to make the wall more stable. Chris McCooe visited the site and pictures were shown. The wall is about 2 feet high. Lauren wants to spot repair the natural stones by hand and probably add some more rocks to prevent erosion. Andy explained the RDA process and Ginger provided Lauren with the application paperwork.

Jim Blanchette, 3 Massaconic Trail: He has a dead birch tree that is about 4 feet from the water. The trunk is about 8 inches in diameter. Andy made a site visit to see the tree. Jim Blanchette saw Jack Keough to obtain a pink, procedure sheet for signature and agreed to plant something for mitigation. Stump to remain in place, but will grind it down to just underneath the surface of the ground.

Motion: Anne Hall made the motion to sign the procedure sheet. Sam Spratlin seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Dave Bucelli from DB Tree: Dave came in with 3 procedure sheets for tree removal. Sam Spratlin and Jessica Chaffee will make a site visit to these 3 properties:

- **Dave Bucelli for Mark Trescott, 16 Collette (R13-B-01):** Three trees about 95 feet from the water. The trees are considered nuisance trees by the owner.
- **Dave Bucelli for Pete Castonguay, 18 Collette (R13-B-02), right-of-way owner:** Two dead red pine trees approximately 15 - 20 feet from the water. These are considered to be a danger to the public by the owner.
- **Dave Bucelli, Chip McIsaac, # 5 Castonguay (R13-A-02):** Wants permission to cut down 1 maple tree. It is thin and scraggly with roots growing into the foundation. Distance is approximately 70 feet from the water.

Adjournment

Motion made by Jessica Chaffee to adjourn this meeting. Anne Hall seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kathy McKenna
Conservation Commission Secretary

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