

**Stow Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
April 3, 2018**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held at the Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, Massachusetts, on April 3, 2018 at 7:30 in the evening.

There were present:       Serena Furman, Vice-Chair  
                                  Cortni Frecha  
                                  Ingeborg Hegemann Clark  
                                  Jeff Saunders  
                                  Sandra Grund  
                                  Nicki McGachey

Absent:                     Andy Snow, Chair

                                  comprising a quorum of the Commission

Also present:             Kathy Sferra, Conservation Coordinator  
                                  Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant

The Conservation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

**Certificate of Compliance – 126 Gleasondale Road** – Jacquie Goring conducted a site visit and provided photos for the Commission. Goring confirmed that the three rows of straw wattle were installed along the slope of the septic system and the pile of asphalt near the vernal pool had been removed from the 100' buffer and recommended the Certificate of Compliance be issued. *Cortni Frecha made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 126 Gleasondale Road. Sandra Grund seconded and it was passed unanimously.*

**Execute Contract – Carver Hill Orchard Grant** – The Commission reviewed the EOEa contract for the Carver Hill Orchard grant and discussed considerations for appropriate use for the property. *Cortni Frecha made a motion to execute the Carver Hill Orchard Grant contract. Jeff Saunders seconded and it was passed unanimously.*

**Minutes:** *Cortni Frecha made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2018 as written. Sandra Grund seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Farm License Renewal – Jesse Steadman, Captain Sargent Conservation Area** – The Commission reviewed the farm license for Captain Sargent Conservation Area. *Cortni Frecha made a motion to renew the Captain Sargent Farm license. Nicki McGachey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Approve Acceptance of Deed – Regency at Stow Open Space** – Sferra informed the Commission that the deed is being reviewed by Town Counsel and is not ready for acceptance.

**Associate Member/Assistant Garden Steward Appointment** – Goring informed the Commission that there are two new assistant Community Garden Stewards and recommended they be appointed as Associate Members. *Nicki McGachey made a motion to appoint Mary Coombs and Laura Reiner as Associate Members of the Conservation Commission. Cortni Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Serena Furman recused herself at 7:40 PM.

**Land Project Updates – Kunelius, Carver Hill, and small farm** – Sferra updated the Commission on the status of the Conservation Restrictions (CR) for Carver Hill, small farm and Minister's Pond. The CRs for small farm and Ministers Pond are being sent for review and Sferra is addressing the comments on the Carver Hill CR. The

Finance Committee has also requested to meet with Sferra regarding the Kunelius warrant article. The appraisal for Kunelius will be completed later this month. Sferra has received two bids for the survey for Carver Hill and Kunelius which were varied significantly and will require further review. Sferra requested that the Commission allow her to contract for due diligence services for these projects up to the budget amount so the work can begin prior to the next Commission meeting. *Sandra Grund made a motion to authorize staff to contract for due diligence services for the four land projects up to the budgeted amount. Cortni Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Serena Furman returned at 7:45 PM.

#### **Request for Determination of Applicability continuation – Christopher Jenkins – 72 Boxboro Road –**

Homeowner Christopher Jenkins was present and displayed plans for the property and described the row of trees proposed for removal along the former property line. Fifteen trees are proposed for removal including thirteen pines and two dead trees. Jenkins stated that some of the trees have been topped and have multiple leaders and are now 70 to 80 feet tall. Jenkins provided photos of the trees and noted that the trees lost a lot of branches during the March storms and identified the dead red maple which is also proposed for removal. Jenkins described the 35' no disturb buffer and the four trees proposed for removal within it and his concerns about the safety of the children who play in the area and his house. Jenkins added that the wood ducks nest in the area around the brook and would be willing to plant shrubs as suggested by Cortni Frecha during the site visit to provide more cover for the ducks such as witch hazel and swamp azalea. Jenkins clarified that he does not plan to convert the area to lawn but would like to remove the pine trees that have reached their maximum height. Nicki McGachey added that multi-leader pine trees can't support their weight. Frecha noted that the stream is a tributary to Heath Hen Meadow Brook and agreed that it was sensible to take down the proposed trees and plant shrubs to extend the shrubby area used by wood ducks and deer. Frecha added that Jenkins has a domestic duck pen within the 35' no disturb buffer which he may remove. The Commission discussed the mitigation plantings and also suggested winterberry and buttonbush and asking a local garden center for appropriate and available native to the northeast shrubs. *Sandra Grund made a motion to close the public hearing for 72 Boxboro Road. Nicki McGachey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Determination of Applicability – Christopher Jenkins – 72 Boxboro Road –** The Commission discussed the Determination and requested that ten one gallon native to the Northeast shrubs be planted by April 2019 as mitigation for the tree removal. *Cortni Frecha made a motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination for 72 Boxboro Road. Nicki McGachey seconded and it was passed unanimously.*

#### **Coordinator's Report**

- **May Meeting dates:** The Commission discussed the May meeting dates and the May 15<sup>th</sup> Election Day and will likely move the meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sferra will confirm via email.

**Planning Board Request for Comment on Zoning Changes –** The Commission will discuss the Planning Board Zoning Changes during the next meeting.

**323 Great Road –** Sferra informed the Commission that the Zoning Board decision for Stow Community Park at 323 Great Road may be appealed by the abutters.

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark arrived at 8:08 PM.

**Adjournment –** *Cortni Frecha made a motion to recess to the Finance Committee meeting at 8:10 PM and to adjourn thereafter. Sandra Grund seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Meeting with Finance Committee re: FY 19 Budget –** Sferra reviewed the Kunelius warrant article for the Finance Committee. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, Cortni Frecha, and Sandra Grund met with the Finance Committee and discussed the Wetland Fund consent calendar warrant article and funding of the Conservation Assistant position with the Wetland Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Goring  
Conservation Assistant

**Materials Used during April 3, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting:**

72 Boxboro Road photos and site plan

4/6/18 Agenda

4/6/18 Meeting and Coordinator's Report

Draft 3/20/18 minutes