

**Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 5, 2019**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held at the Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, Massachusetts, on March 5, 2019 at 7:00 in the evening.

There were present: Cortni Frecha, Vice-Chair
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
Serena Furman
Nicki McGachey
Andy Snow

Absent: Jeff Saunders, Chair
Sandra Grund

comprising a quorum of the Commission

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

Joint Boards Meeting – Golf Course Master Planning – Members of the Conservation Commission met with members of the Planning Board, Open Space Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust to discuss the land use for residentially zoned golf courses. There was general agreement that this is a subject worth pursuing in more detail and it is likely that a subcommittee will be established to focus on this. The Planning Board minutes of this discussion provide greater detail.

Minutes: *Andy Snow made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2019 as amended. Nicki McGachey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark recused herself at 8:07 PM.

Route 62 – Gleasondale Bridge Request for Comments – Sferra provided the Commission draft comments on the Gleasondale Bridge plans and noted her belief that the work is exempt under the Wetlands Protect Act but is not exempt under the local bylaw. Sferra included in the comment letter a request for construction details on the wing wall and details on compliance with the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook requirements. Sferra added that the comment letter includes a request that access to the existing informal canoe and kayak put in to the Assabet River not to be made more difficult. *Andy Snow made a motion to submit the comment letter regarding the Gleasondale Bridge. Serena Furman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously with Ingeborg Hegemann Clark abstaining.*

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark returned at 8:13 PM.

Continued Notice of Intent – Hallocks Point Road Subdivision – Sarah Bailin – Paul Alphen, Attorney for Robert Dawes LLC, and Sarah Bailin were present. Alphen informed the Commission that their meeting with the Planning Board has been postponed to March 19th. Alphen confirmed that the 35' no disturb buffer will be cross hatched and labeled on the final plan. The Commission reviewed the draft covenant and confirmed that paths should be no greater than four to six feet and requested clarification on the reference for invasive plants. The Commission discussed the need for work outside of the approved plan requiring additional permitting prior to construction. Sferra asked Alphen to confirm the duration of the covenant and if it is a 30 year limited restriction then a provision should be made for re-recording. *Serena Furman moved to continue the hearing to 3/19/19 at or after 7:30 PM. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Coordinator's Report

- **The Wildlife In Our Woods Presentation:** Sferra noted that the presentation went very well and was well attended. Stow TV videotaped the presentation and it is available on YouTube.
- **MACC Conservation Administrator of the Year Award:** Sferra thanked the Commission for their nomination for Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Conservation Administrator of the Year Award which she received at MACC's Annual Conference.
- **New Projects:** Three new projects have been submitted. Serena Furman will visit 16 Pine Point Road, Nicki McGachey will visit 1-3 Rock Bottom, and Jeff Saunders will review 168 Barton Road.
- **Hudson Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit:** Sferra noted that the Hudson Wastewater Treatment Plant permit was issued and the Town will have 30 days to appeal if desired. OARS was also notified of the permit issuance and will be in contact with the Commission with their review of the document. Sferra will include discussion of the permit on the next agenda.

Enforcement Order Follow Up

- **Great Road and Harvard Road:** Sferra informed the Commission that she has not received a restoration plan as required by the Enforcement Order (EO) by the March 1st deadline. Sferra has left voicemails for Steve Hartwell and spoke with Scott Hartwell who confirmed he would follow up.
- **168 Barton Road:** Sferra informed the Commission that she has received the request to amend the Order of Conditions for 168 Barton and has requested that a schedule of the proposed work be provided as required by the EO.

MACC Conference Follow Up – Sferra, Goring, Sandra Grund and Ingeborg Hegemann Clark attended the Annual MACC conference at Holy Cross on March 2nd. Sferra updated the Commission on the fundamental workshop she presented and Goring noted highlights from the workshops she attended.

Town of Weston Buffer Zone Restoration Guidelines – The Commission reviewed the Town of Weston Buffer Zone Restoration Guidelines and agreed that staff should work on a similar draft policy for their review. This will be added to the workplan.

Appoint Community Garden Stewards – Goring informed the Commission that Garden Steward Joyce Bunce will be retiring as Garden Steward after many years of dedicated service. Assistant Garden Stewards Laura Reiner and Mary Coombs have agreed to be Garden Stewards for the 2019 season along with Myong Hunt. Goring will follow up with the Commission on plans to recognize Bunce for her volunteerism. *Serena Furman moved to appoint Laura Reiner and Mary Coombs as Associate Commission members and Community Garden Stewards. Andy Snow seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Revised Heath Hen Meadow Conservation Area Map – Sferra informed the Commission that she has revised the Heath Hen Meadow Conservation Area map to include the orange trail which crosses SCT land; and Heath Hen will now be a separate map from the existing Flagg Hill trail map. Land Steward Bruce Trefry will be posting trail blazes along the orange trail. *Andy Snow made a motion to approve the revised Heath Hen Conservation Area map. Nicki McGachey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Carver Hill and Small Farm Memorandums of Understanding with Stow Conservation Trust – *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to approve the Memorandums of Understanding with Stow Conservation Trust for Carver Hill and Small Farm as written. Serena Furman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Carver Hill and Small Farm – Farm Plans – The Commission reviewed comments from Sferra and Stow Conservation Trust on the farm plans for Carver Hill and Small Farm. The Commission discussed concerns raised in the comments about farm equipment, structures, and dogs. No further comments were noted.

Adjournment – *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Nicki McGachey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Goring
Conservation Assistant

Materials Used during March 5, 2019 Conservation Commission Meeting:

Draft Gleasondale Bridge comments

Hallocks Point – draft covenant

Town of Weston Buffer Zone Restoration Guidelines

Revised Heath Hen Meadow Conservation Area map

Carver Hill and Small Farm Memorandums of Understanding with Stow Conservation Trust

Carver Hill and Small Farm farm plans

Draft 2/19/19 Minutes