

**Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 21, 2019**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held at the Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, Massachusetts, on May 21, 2019 at 7:30 in the evening.

There were present: Jeff Saunders, Chair
Cortni Frecha, Vice-Chair
Serena Furman
Andy Snow

Absent: Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
Sandra Grund

comprising a quorum of the Commission

Also present: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Coordinator

Minutes: *Serena Furman made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2019 as amended. Cortni Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Cortni Frecha made a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2019 as amended. Andy Snow seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Kunelius Conservation Restriction: Execution will be deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of quorum on this issue.

Coordinator's Report

- **Tax Work off Volunteer:** Joey O'Connor-Katz started work as a tax volunteer today and helped with pulling invasives at Captain Sargent.
- **Harvard Road Open Space:** Discussions with the residents of Harvard Acres on a possible land conveyance to the Conservation Commission are moving forward.
- **141 – 149 Whitman Wetland Restoration:** Mistletoe Farm restoration is in progress. We expect to receive a request for a site visit in the next week.
- **Town Center Park Update:** Town Center Park construction is going well with staking of elements expected this week.

Appointment - Extension Request – 101 Kingland – Present was Rob Kotosky seeking a three year extension of his Order of Conditions which expires in July 25, 2019. Work on the project has not yet commenced for a variety of reasons which Kotosky explained. *Andy Snow moved to approve a three year extension from the existing expiration date, Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Appointment - Eagle Scout Project – Christian Eld – Christian Eld explained that he is proposing to build a kiosk at the Community Gardens at Captain Sargent near the entrance. He would like to finish by the end of the summer. The Commission agreed that they would like Bruce Trefry, Land Steward, to review the final plans. *Cortni Frecha moved to approve the project subject to review and approval by staff, Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.* The Commission thanked Eld for bringing a project forward.

Appointment Jillian's Lane – Follow up to Enforcement Order – Present to discuss the status of the work on the detention basin at Jillian's Lane were Maryann DiPinto, Carole Allen Scannell and Nancy Allen Scannell. DiPinto updated the Commission on the status of the work on the basin, noting that there had been significant improvement in the quality of water discharged from the basin. DiPinto added that the silt removal and restoration to the intermittent stream across Walcott Street would be completed by September 1st. DiPinto stated that she would like to wait until the summer is over to see what wetland plants grow in to see if restoration is necessary. Nancy Allen

Scannell said they are waiting for the rain to let up so that they can work on the basin. They are hopeful that they will get a three day window to do the work starting next Monday or Tuesday. The slope needs to be brought up to the proper height and made a 3:1 slope with fill. The slopes will then be hydroseeded with tacifier which requires 24 hours to dry. One of the houses is still under construction and needs to be tied into the basin. Nancy Allen Scannell noted that the basin is stable, but that the pipe was not properly attached to the outflow and the engineering inspections required in the Order were not completed. DiPinto confirmed that Ducharme and Dillis is now completing inspections and will be completing an as-built plan for the basin. DiPinto noted that the final step for the basin will be to install the new cover at catch basin 3 and connect the basin to the catch basin. They expect all of the work to be done by the end of June. The Commission confirmed that the basin has only dried out once and stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) reports are continuing to be completed.

Coordinator's Report Continued:

- **Hudson Road Auto** – Staff has received a planting plan, but the actual planting has been delayed. The owner was in touch prior to the deadline and asked for two additional weeks which staff tentatively approved, giving them until May 31st. Sferra asked the Commission to ratify the extension. *Andy Snow moved to extend the deadline two weeks, Serena Furman seconded. Cortni Frecha suggested amending the motion to give them until the end of the first week in June. Andy Snow and Serena Furman accepted that amendment and it was approved unanimously.*
- **Carver Hill Trail Modification** – SCT has approved the modification; this will be put in writing.

Appointment – 68 Pine Point Road – Permit Compliance – Steve Poole was present on behalf of the owners. Steve clarified that he had presented incorrect numbers on compensatory flood storage at the last meeting which he believes overestimated the amount of fill in flood plain. Poole stated that he recalculated 38 cubic feet of fill from the retaining wall being built higher than proposed. Poole added that the property owner would like to fill an area next to the gazebo to reach the dock. Material from the site will be dug out and used for the ramp which Poole stated would provide compensatory flood storage. Poole added that the homeowner may want to build up the area behind the wall to smooth the grade. Sferra noted that would create additional flood storage impacts. The Commission discussed the need to provide one and half times the flood storage, the required planting area in the Order, and discussed how to provide flood storage and the treatment of the area immediately behind the wall. Poole agreed to return with a plan for the June 18th meeting.

Request to Place Wildlife Crossing Signs – The Commission reviewed a letter from a resident about this issue and was in agreement with the staff response that “homemade” signs for salamander and turtle crossings were preferable to street signs.

Certificate of Compliance – Sam Hurwitz - 156 Barton – Goring did a site visit. Sferra explained a deviation from the plan, with the patio being larger than approved within the 35' no disturb buffer. The owner has supplied additional photos and explanation. After discussion, the Commission agreed that they wanted to see 6-10 one gallon native, wildlife friendly shrubs, planted within the 35' buffer as mitigation for the expanded patio. Areas identified for planting were right and left of the patio along the top of the bank and/or along the staircase. The Commission will re-consider the COC after the shrubs are planted.

Captain Sargent Parking Lot Invoice – The Highway Department has completed reconstruction of the lot with donated labor. \$922.05 was needed for materials. Sferra proposed to pay this from remaining Meetinghouse Foundation Grant Funds as one of the projects in the grant application was to make grading and drainage improvements to this parking lot. *Andy Snow moved to pay for the materials for the reconstruction of the Captain Sargent Parking lot from the Meetinghouse Foundation Grant Funds, Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Public Lands Preservation Act – The Commission reviewed a draft letter prepared by Sferra supporting this pending legislation. *Cortni Frecha moved to send the letter, Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Regency at Stow – Wetland Clean Up – This agenda item was deferred due to a lack of quorum on this issue.

Community Preservation Committee Appointment – Cortni Frecha has resigned from her position as a member of the Community Preservation Committee. The Commission discussed this briefly and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting as all members were not present. It is possible that an associate member could represent the Commission. Sferra will look for an article that was written for the newspaper seeking new members.

Pine Bluff Trash – Andy Snow noted that there is a lot of trash and debris at Pine Bluff. Sferra will follow up with Laura Greenough.

Adjournment – *Cortni Frecha made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. Serena Furman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sferra
Conservation Coordinator

Jacquie Goring
Conservation Assistant (from recording)

Materials Used during May 21, 2019 Conservation Commission Meeting:

Draft Minutes
156 Barton – Site Visit Photos and supporting materials
68 Pine Point – Plan
Hudson Road Auto Planting Plan
Draft Letter of Support for Public Lands Preservation Act