

**Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 7, 2020**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held at the Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, Massachusetts, on January 7, 2020 at 7:30 in the evening.

There were present: Jeff Saunders, Chair
 Serena Furman, Vice-Chair
 Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
 Andy Snow
 Andy Bass
 Sandra Grund

comprising a quorum of the Commission

Also present: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Coordinator
 Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant
 Matt Styckiewicz, Associate Member

Minutes: *Serena Furman made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2019 as amended. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Review/Release of Executive Session Minutes: *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of May 9, 2016 and August 16, 2016 as written. Sandra Grund seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to release the executive session minutes of March 4, 2014, January 20, 2015, March 3, 2015, July 7, 2015, May 9, 2016, August 16, 2016, October 3, 2017, and October 17, 2017. Sandra Grund seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Coordinator's Report

- **Treaty Elm Violation:** Sferra informed the Commission that the property owner has been in touch with staff and has confirmed that the bridging over the stream has been removed. The Commission will visit the site on January 19th.
- **Eversource:** Ingeborg Hegemann Clark recused herself from the discussion. Sferra noted that a Notice of Intent is expected to be filed for the 2/4/20 meeting and asked the Commission how they would like to schedule a site visit. The Commission discussed the site visit and agreed to visit the site after the hearing has been opened as needed. Snow will be the lead. Snow and Sferra have already done a site visit.
- **Harvard Acres Open Space:** Sferra informed the Commission that the Harvard Acres Homeowners' Association has incorporated and it is expected that they will vote to convey the open space to the Commission in February.
- **Commission Member update:** Sferra noted that she spoke with former member Doug Morse and he is considering returning to the Commission.
- **Community Preservation Committee Discussion of Track Road Proposal:** Sferra clarified that the meeting with the Community Preservation Committee was to discuss proposed survey and conceptual design costs for Track Road. She summarized the discussion.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 217 Hudson Road – Jeff Saunders reviewed photos taken during his follow up site visit and confirmed that the landscaping material and debris was removed from the wetland and no damage was done to the lawn during removal. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to issue the Certificate of Compliance. Sandra Grund seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Request for Certificate of Compliance – 46 Pine Point Road – Jacquie Goring informed the Commission that she confirmed with the property owner that the path was built six inches wider than proposed because the approved

30 inches was not wide enough to travel across the path safely. Goring also confirmed that the path was constructed against the existing lake shore retaining wall as shown on the approved plans. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to issue the Certificate of Compliance. Sandra Grund seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Execute Extension Agreement for Hemenway Farm off Walcott Street – The Commission signed the extension that was voted on during the December 17, 2019 Commission meeting.

Accept Resignation/Associate Member Appointment – Cortni Frecha – *Serena Furman moved to accept Cortni Frecha's resignation letter and appoint Frecha as an Associate member of the Commission. Sandra Grund seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to draft a letter of support to the Board of Selectmen for Associate member Matt Styckiewicz to fill the Commission vacancy. Sandra Grund seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Request for Minor Plan Modifications – 68 Pine Point Road – Steve Poole, Lakeview Engineering, was present and informed the Commission that the property owners would like a more extensive planting plan than what was proposed and provided a revised planting plan done by Merrifield Garden & Design. Poole stated that the excavation work for the compensatory flood storage area is proposed to be done in May and the work was not done in the fall because they could not find an available contractor at that time. Sferra confirmed that all the proposed plantings are native. Sferra noted that the deadline to complete the work is April 30, 2020 unless a request for extension is granted. Poole stated that they would like to plant in June. Poole clarified that the revised planting plan did not show the compensatory flood storage area but included a note referencing it on the plan. Poole also confirmed the proposed plantings will be in the depression created for the compensatory flood storage area. Sferra recommended that the site plan showing the compensatory flood storage and the revised planting plan be combined into one plan. Poole stated that he would like to complete the excavation and planting work and resurvey the property and create an as-built plan to be submitted with the Request for Certificate of Compliance and be recorded at the Registry of Deeds as required by the Enforcement Order (EO). Sferra reviewed the EO and noted the requirement for the recorded plan and the deadline to record the plan by January 1, 2020. Poole requested an extension to June 30, 2020 to complete the grading work and plantings and to record the as-built plan. The Commission discussed the request and recommended that if an extension is granted the plantings must be watered throughout the summer. Poole clarified that when he measured the dock he did not measure it when the removable decking was on which overhangs, and confirmed that dock is actually four feet wide and will revise the plan. Poole also confirmed that the as-built plan and planting plans could be recorded together. Sferra noted that the plan to be recorded must clearly show the flood storage area. Poole confirmed that the grades shown for the compensatory flood storage area will be the finish grade including any loam or mulch used for the plantings. Poole also confirmed that he would contact the office before work is started. The Commission confirmed that the roots could be pulled for the two trees that were removed in the compensatory flood storage area to allow for grading. *Andy Snow moved to extend the deadline to complete the compensatory flood storage area grading and planting to June 30, 2020 and to extend the deadline to record an as-built plan no later than July 31, 2020. Sandra Grund seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Town Forest Trails – Review Written Comments & Decision – The Commission reviewed written comments on the proposed Town Forest Area Conservation Land trail modifications including from the Stow Fire Department and residents Laura Diamond and Alexis Arapoff. Sferra noted that she met with Goring and Land Steward Bruce Trefry to review the comments. Sferra pointed out that in the comments from the Fire Department a recommendation was made to not have such a long red loop trail where it would be difficult for public safety to determine where people are if they were lost. Sferra noted that the proposed red loop is smaller than the existing blue loop and is accessible from both the blue trail and from Carver Hill. Sferra noted that Trefry suggested that additional small “K” kiosks could be installed and more blazing could be used to prevent confusion. Trefry also suggested that the blue loop and red loops could be broken up in segments between the kiosks and labeled numerically. The kiosks could then be labeled to match the segment of trail. Trefry also suggested that if needed the blazes along the trail could also be labeled with numbers to help people describe their location to public safety. The Commission noted that having one color loops can be helpful for people walking knowing that if they stay on the same color trail it will bring them

back to where they started. The Commission also suggested additional markings on the AT&T trail and to have it more clearly marked on the trail map to help prevent people from being lost. Trefry suggested that all the intersections on the AT&T trail could be marked and AT&T could be contacted to mark the easement with additional signage. Sferra noted that once the red trail loop has been completed the Commission will have a grand opening of the trail with the Stow Conservation Trust. Sferra also noted that she discussed options for the proposed trail closings with Goring and Trefry during their meeting including dropping trees and posting signage. *Sandra Grund moved to approve the proposed Town Forest Area Conservation Land trail modifications. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Review Draft Work Plan – Sferra reviewed the draft work plan proposed for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020 including upcoming known permitting work for the Box Mill Bridge, survey and design work for the Assabet River Rail Trail, and Lake Boon Stabilization policy. Sferra also reviewed the work plan for land stewardship including the Carver Hill trail opening, Town Forest trail modifications, Kunelius boundary posting and boardwalk, and Conservation Restriction stewardship. Sferra also noted plans for community outreach including a meeting with the new Superintendent of Streets, school vacation week programs, neighborhood hikes and Town Center Park event during Springfest. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark noted that she would be willing to help flag the wetlands along Track Road. Andy Bass offered to help with the new red trail loop at Town Forest and Carver Hill. Sferra added that she is thinking about creating a white paper on living with wildlife in Stow.

Lake Boon Shoreline Stabilization Guidance – Review/Discuss – Sferra provided the Commission the Lake Boon Shoreline Stabilization Guidance for review and asked if the Commission would like it to remain a guidance document or make a policy. The Commission noted that the Stow Wetland Regulations need to be updated and could potentially incorporate some of the existing guidance. The Commission also suggested that a one page guidance document would be helpful and agreed to review the existing guidance document further.

Review Pending Enforcement List – Sferra reviewed the current enforcement listing and noted that Steve Hartwell has not yet applied for a permit. Sferra added that Collings has not yet responded to her emails regarding being on the agenda for the January 21, 2020 meeting. Sferra also noted that an as-built plan has not been received yet for Jillian's Lane. Sferra also noted the ongoing enforcement issues with the Bells on Marlboro Road, DiPietro on Maple Street and the erosion issues at Delaney.

Schedule Annual Dinner – Sferra will coordinate by email.

Sandra Grund Resigning – Sandra Grund informed the Commission that she will be resigning from the Commission as of February 4, 2020.

Adjournment – *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28PM. Sandra Grund seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Goring
Conservation Assistant

Materials Used during January 7, 2019 Conservation Commission Meeting:

Draft Minutes and Executive Session Minutes
Site Plans, photos, and supporting materials for 217 Hudson and 46 Pine Point Road
Site Plans, photos, and supporting materials for 68 Pine Point Road
Draft Work plan
List of Pending Enforcement Issues
Lake Boon Stabilization Guidance
Town Forest Area Trail Modifications Document December 2019 and maps