



TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Pelham, Massachusetts

Minutes for January 9, 2020

Present: Dana MacDonald, David Gross, Meredith Borenstein, Richard Seelig

Also present: Janice Gifford, Patricia Milligan

The public meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:11 PM.

Public Meeting for a Request for Determination of Applicability for 328 Amherst Rd.

A Request for Determination (RDA) for property at 328 Amherst Road (Map 1, parcel 134) was submitted on November 10, 2019 by Patricia Millington. The public meeting announcement was published on December 26, 2019 in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Chair MacDonald noted that a previous determination by the Commission concluded that there are no jurisdictional wetlands on the property. It was moved and seconded that the Commission issue a negative 1 determination. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Boundaries of Conservation Restrictions within the Town

Chair MacDonald handed out an email dated November 15, 2019 from Paul Gagnon, Kestrel Trust, about issues with the boundaries of conservation restricted properties in Pelham. Chair MacDonald asked the Commissioners to review the contents of the email in preparation for discussion of the issues at the Commission's next meeting.

Review Conservation Restriction for Fennessey and McClung Properties

Chair MacDonald noted that the town currently is very close to closing on the purchase of the McClung property. It is likely that the sale will close before January 31. Additionally, the town will be closing this month on the Fennessey properties.

Kestrel Trust has requested that we approve the conservation restriction (CR) on the Fennessey parcels contingent on final approval by the state, Town Council and the Conservation Commission of the purchase. The sale closing for the property requires that the Commission agrees to the CR, contingent as noted above, prior to the final sale. The Kestrel Trust will own the property and the town will hold the CR.

It was moved that Commission approve the placement of a CR for the Fennessey parcels contingent on final review by the Commonwealth, Town Council and the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

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Information on Cows Property Work

Chair MacDonald reported that preliminary wetland delineation work is being done by the landowner, Cows Lumber, on a parcel due east of the Cadwell Forest. The delineation has been suggested as being part of a study in preparation for siting a solar array on the parcel.

Brewer Road Forest Cutting Plan

Agent Borenstein circulated a forest cutting plan for property near the Town Forest. The plan is for one of the two parcels that the state and The Kestrel Trust have agreed upon to have a working forest easement. Chair MacDonald noted that this area has a number of wetland features. The southeast edge of the parcel abuts Brewer Road. The forester listed in the application is Jacob Macko. The Commission notes that he has been working previously in this parcel and nearby ones without problems. The Commission feels that the plan is appropriate and no further comments are necessary.

Small Communities Grant Application

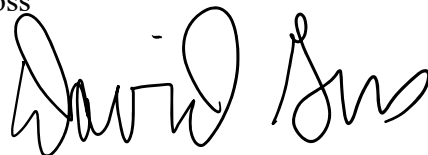
Agent Borenstein circulated a call for applications for a grant to support small communities. After some discussion, the Commission agreed that the town should apply for a \$10,000 grant to help us revise the Pelham Open Space Plan. The funds will go to pay someone, perhaps Agent Borenstein, to rewrite and update the Open Space Plan. Agent Borenstein will complete and submit the application, stating the Commission's goals and putting a completion date of June 30, 2021 for the project. The Commission agreed that it will propose a \$12,500 comprehensive rewrite of the outdated open space plan, with \$10,000 from the Commonwealth and \$2500 from Conservation Commission funds.

Planning Board's Permitting Guide

The Commission discussed the draft of the Permitting Guide developed by the Planning Board and forwarded to Commission members by Planning Board Chair Judith Eiseman earlier in the week. The content of the description of steps necessary for wetlands review was discussed, and some revisions in the layout and text were suggested. It was moved that the Commission approve the Permitting Guide content with some revisions. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Commissioner Gross will send the Commission's comments to Chair Eiseman.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the meeting adjourn at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross", with a stylized, cursive script.