



TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION Pelham, Massachusetts

Minutes for November 29, 2018

PRESENT: Dana MacDonald, Tilman Lukas, David Gross, Meredith Borenstein

The meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:10 PM.

Review of previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the Commission's November 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was seconded. Unanimously approved.

31 Boyden Road vernal pool potential road drainage issue

The owner of 31 Boyden Road contacted the Commission with a concern about salt and sediment from the road entering the vernal pool that is adjacent to the road. Agent Borenstein visited the site and did not see any obvious issues, although there was considerable snow cover at the time. The Commission agreed to revisit the site once snow has melted and will plan to continue to monitor the pool. Chair MacDonald will call DPW Chief Adamcek to determine if salt is used during the winter on dirt roads in Pelham.

Open Space Plan

Chair MacDonald gave Agent Borenstein a paper copy and a digital copy of the Open Space Plan of 2008 that had been edited by Commissioner Hartzell and former Commissioner Weigel in 2016. Chair MacDonald made notes about recent land purchases and associated conservation restrictions that should be incorporated into the revised Open Space Plan.

Agent Borenstein reported that she had requested a Natural Heritage and Endangered Species report for Pelham from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. As of today's meeting she has not yet received it.

Well Away Farm trail and parking area RDA

Chris Volonte from the Kestrel Trust contacted Chair MacDonald about the need for an RDA for work proposed to reroute a hiking trail in the south field at Well Away Farm, to improve the trail through the north field, and to expand and improve the parking area on South Valley Road near the north field entrance. The Commission concluded that an RDA with a hand-drawn with notated dimensions for the three areas where work will be done is appropriate. The specific changes to the current parking area need to be included in the RDA. Discussion arose about the need for a bridge crossing at the stream at the southern end of the southern field trail. Chair MacDonald suggested that the Commission use alternate funding for the bridge rather than the federal funding.

November 29, 2018

Canceling the Dec. 27 Commission meeting

Chair MacDonald offered a motion to cancel the Commission's Dec. 27, 2018 meeting. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

22 Amherst Road documents

In regard to the Certificate of Compliance on DEP File 258-18 dated 5/31/84, which was approved by the Commission on October 25, 2018, Attorney Megin Ziomek (representing HRD Press) sent an email to Commissioner Lukas noting that the incorrect date was listed on the original Certificate. She requested permission to correct the date on the Certificate prior to getting it recorded. The Commission agreed that that correction was appropriate and conveyed the intent of the Commission.

Kevin Hartzell purchase of 26 North Valley Road

Commissioner Hartzell contacted the Commission as a private citizen with a question about the property owned by Micah Pepper at 26 North Valley Road. Mr. Hartzell is interested in purchasing the property, but he hopes to defray some of the acquisition cost by selling a conservation restriction or a portion of the property. The Commission agreed that it cannot pursue this due to the conflict of interest with Commissioner Hartzell. Chair MacDonald suggested that Mr. Hartzell call Kristin DeBoer of Kestrel Trust, who may be interested in buying land in that area.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross", is positioned to the right of the typed name.