



## TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION Pelham, Massachusetts

### Minutes for December 13, 2018

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

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Volonte

The meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:07 PM.

#### **Chris Volonte, Kestrel Land Trust, discussing outstanding conservation area issues**

Ms. Volonte reported that signage for the Pemberton Memorial Forest has been installed. She requested that the invoice for the installation of the signage be paid from Conservation Commission funding. The invoice for the work is for \$1800. It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve the payment. Approved unanimously.

There was discussion concerning construction of the parking area at the Pemberton Memorial Forest along with construction of an informational kiosk near the parking area. Chair MacDonald will send Ms. Volonte a proposal form to request Community Preservation Act funding for construction of the Pemberton parking area and kiosk. Once the proposal is complete it will be forwarded to the Select Board for approval and subsequent placement on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant. The amount requested will be \$3000. Kestrel will need to submit an RDA to the Commission for this work.

There was discussion about trail work and sign maintenance at the Pemberton, Well Away, Buffum Brook and Pelham Town Forest conservation areas. It was suggested that Kestrel and the Commission consider asking town members to volunteer for trail work to be overseen by Kestrel. It was suggested that Kestrel and the Commission can use the Neighbor-to-Neighbor website and the Pelham Slate as media to advertise for volunteers.

There was discussion about the mechanism for payment for the Well Away Farm parking area. Ms. Volonte asked if the Pelham DPW will cover the cost since a portion of the work will involve improved drainage for South Valley Road. Chair MacDonald noted that DPW Chief Adamcek still needs to review the plans for the parking area. A Request for Determination will need to be made for the work to be done at Well Away Farm. Kestrel will need to submit information about the proposed trail layout. The Commission will supply the information about the parking area. The expected timeline is to have the work done in the Spring or Summer of 2019. Kestrel will initiate completion of the RDA application and the Commission will then add descriptions of the parking area work.

#### **Schedule Boyden Road site visit (parking area and vernal pool)**

The Commission agreed to visit the Boyden Road parking area and nearby vernal pool at 3:00 PM on Dec. 20. Carpooling by Commission members is to be arranged. The purpose of the site

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visit is to measure the proposed parking area for the Community Forest off of Boyden Road and look for road runoff into the vernal pool. Additionally, the Commission Needs to determine if the proposed work for the new parking area at the Boyden Road location for the Community Forest will require an RDA.

**Grant for Conservation Assistance for Small Communities**

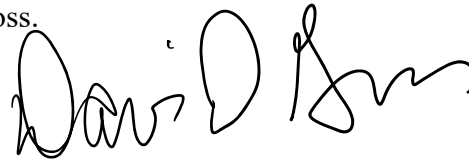
The Commission discussed a funding opportunity from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The EOEEA has a new Small Communities Grant that can be used to fund projects such as revising the town's Open Space Plan. The Commission reviewed the application form for the grant and had questions. Agent Borenstein will call Melissa Cryan as per the application instructions for clarification.

**North Valley Road culvert repair**

The Commission discussed the RDA for North Valley culvert overpass repair that the DPW has submitted. There were questions about work near the stream bed, and so the Commission will ask the engineer for the project to come to the Commission's January 10, 2019 meeting to explain the details of the work they are planning to do.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross", with a stylized flourish at the end.