

TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR March 29, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Hartzell, Dana MacDonald, Cynthia Weigel, Tilman Lukas, David Gross

ALSO PRESENT: Meredith Borenstein

Administrative matters:

Chair MacDonald brought the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

Chair MacDonald described the annual plan for herbicide spraying along power line rights of way by Eversource. The Commission needs to review the plan and indicate to Eversource that we will require a special exemption for vernal ponds and open water areas during the periods of amphibian migration (Spring and Fall). In the past the Commission has limited herbicide application during these times to areas outside an area from 400 to 1000 feet from ponds. Commissioner Hartzell volunteered to review the Eversource plan and write the Commission's response to Eversource.

The Commission considered items that it should aim to complete over the course of the year. Among the items that were considered were the following:

- Have another vernal pond workshop
- Finish the open space plan
- Mediate the Buffam Falls conservation area invasives
- Repair the Buffam Falls trail stairs and bridge
- Plan and implement monitoring of conservation restrictions
- Reactivate the Commission's Friends Group
- Recruit new commission members/associate members
- Move forward on Pemberton Conservation Area and Town Forest planning, especially the parking areas
- Complete necessary agreements to get an access agreement for old Robinson Road (on the Weeks property for its first 60 feet)

Chair MacDonald said that the vernal pool workshop will be scheduled for April 14. He will ensure that the workshop is advertised and that a naturalist will be invited to present at the workshop.

Further discussion of the annual plan was continued to a later date.

The Commission opened the interview with Meredith Borenstein, who has applied for the Conservation Agent position. Commissioner Hartzell recused himself from the discussion and left the meeting at this point.

The Commission interviewed applicant Borenstein. After introductions and a description of the work of the Commission and its expectations of activities that the Agent will undertake, the applicant was asked to describe her background, experience, and expectations.

At the conclusion of the interview the applicant left the meeting and the four remaining Commissioners discussed the three applicants that have been interviewed to date. The Commission decided to schedule a special meeting on April 5 at 7 PM to review the applications and, if possible, to determine which of the candidates to offer the position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted, David Gross

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "G".