



TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pelham, Massachusetts

Minutes for May 10, 2018

PRESENT: Dana MacDonald, Cynthia Weigel, Tilman Lukas, David Gross, Conservation Agent Meredith Borenstein

Chair MacDonald brought the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

There was discussion concerning the Conservation Commission bylaws. Chair MacDonald suggested that we should change the bylaws to indicate that the Conservation Agent will handle much of the paperwork for applications. Member Lukas noted that he had a copy of the bylaws which had been reworked a few years ago but that were never moved for approval. He suggested that he bring the revised bylaws to the next meeting on May 31 so that the commission can make the newly proposed changes on a copy that includes the previous revisions. Commissioner Weigel pointed out that we can change our regulations at an open meeting. Bylaw changes require a vote by the commission with a 2/3 vote margin.

Commissioner Weigel reported that she had asked Town Clerk Kathy Martell to check to see if Pelham has set the number of commissioners at 5, and also if associate commissioners can be appointed. The commission would like to add 2 associate members, and we need to determine if we need to change our statute by the appropriate body. We aim to review the town wetlands bylaw at a subsequent commission meeting.

The minutes from the April 26 meeting were amended to correct a misspelling and to change "Members Present" to "Present". The minutes were approved as amended.

The field trip to the Bilkin farm that we had planned was cancelled and needs to be rescheduled. Chair MacDonald reported that he had talked to farmer Bilkin, who asked if the agricultural use waiver overrode wetland bylaws. Chair MacDonald explained that the lack of agricultural activity over the past decades prevents grandfathering from past agricultural uses, and thus wetland bylaws prevail.

Chair MacDonald suggested that Agent Borenstein should have a driving and hiking tour of Pelham to learn about specific issues at different locations in town. Locations to visit might include the Town Forest, Cowls land, cold water fish streams, and parcels where action has been necessary in recent years. Commissioner Gross will accompany Chair MacDonald and Agent Borenstein on the tour, to be scheduled during the week of May 13.

Commissioner Weigel will meet with Agent Borenstein prior to the next commission meeting to discuss legal aspects of commission work (regulations, statutes, bylaws). Chair MacDonald gave Agent Borenstein literature and reports to help her familiarize herself with Pelham.

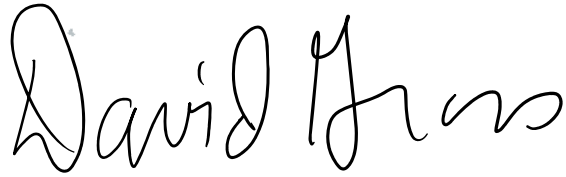
Agent Borenstein will likely conduct office hours on Thursdays, in the latter part of the day, so that she can meet more townspeople.

The commission discussed the need to purchase a laptop for Agent Borenstein. Commissioner Gross reported on his research on laptops. After further discussion of the uses of the computer, further research was decided to be necessary. Commissioner Gross will report his findings and suggestions to Chair MacDonald and Agent Borenstein.

Chair MacDonald reported that Kurtis Coture had contacted him about potential work at "lot 15" on Daniel Shays Hwy. Chair MacDonald requested more information from Mr. Coture in order that we can identify the site. Chair MacDonald, Commissioner Gross and Agent Borenstein will attempt to determine the site location during the driving tour next week. If Mr. Coture has not replied within a week, Agent Borenstein will contact him.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Respectfully submitted by David Gross

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