



TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION Pelham, Massachusetts

Minutes for May9, 2019

Present: Dana MacDonald, David Gross, Tilman Lukas, Richard Seelig

Also present: Chris Volonte (Kestrel Trust), Judith Pierce, Robert Graham

The meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:35 PM.

Commissioner Lukas noted that the public meeting notice may not have been posted by the Town Clerk. After some discussion the Commission decided to keep the public meeting open until the next Commission meeting

Chair MacDonald opened the public meeting at 7:37 PM.

Public Meeting for a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for proposed parking area and trails located at Well-Away Farm Conservation Area on South Valley Road (Map 2 Parcel 56A) Pelham, MA

Chris Volonte from the Kestrel Trust handed out the RDA that she had prepared for the Well Away parking area and trail improvements. She noted that public access to the Well Away conservation area is required by state regulations. She also said that the Keyes family had reached out to Kestrel to do improvements of the trails that have become for the family to maintain. Mark Goodhind, the property owner, cannot continue regular mowing of the field that contains the trail connecting the parking area on South Valley Road to the rest of the conservation area. Further, the Keyes family is not willing to fund maintenance but rather is willing to help fund a permanent trail improvement. Given the locations of wetlands, rerouting the current trail was the best choice. The new trail route was chosen based on the landowner's restriction and necessary distance outside the wetlands buffer zone. Details of the trail design are in the RDA.

Chair MacDonald noted that it is necessary to do the work during the dry season. Ms. Volonte said that the current plan is to work in July. Removed material will be left on site either piled discreetly or spread. If the installer can come to agreement with the owner, then the Commission agrees with this plan, though any removed material must be left outside of the buffer zone. If this can't be accommodated, the material that is removed must be hauled off site.

Chair MacDonald described the parking and swale construction that was discussed with Department of Public Works Head Adamcek during a site visit earlier this year. This additional work will place the drainage swale and parking area on the east side of South Valley Road only. A sediment fan that has accumulated on the west side of the road will be removed from

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the site in order to restore the original grade on the west side of the road. This swale and parking area work is to be done only during the dry season.

There was a motion to consider for a negative 3 recommendation the draft RDA. The Commission agreed to wait to do a final motion at the May 30 meeting, having left the public meeting open. The motion was seconded and approved. The public meeting remains open.

Update on ongoing Kestrel topics: Buffam Brook Community Forest and Pemberton Parking Area and trails

Ms. Volonte noted that at some point Kestrel would like to refine the user-made trail system through the Butterhill and Harkness conservation areas. The aim is to make the whole system to tie together the contiguous conservation areas with a well defined set of trails. Chair MacDonald noted that funding for this likely would be possible from Community Preservation funds. Proposed trail work in the Buffam Forest and Pemberton conservation areas was described. The Commission noted that this work will be on existing trails, so no permitting will be needed. Only work on new parking areas will need RDAs.

Approve previous meeting minutes

Meeting on March 28, 2019: There was a motion to approve the minutes. Second and approved.

Meeting on April 11, 2019: Two changes to the minutes were suggested. A motion to approve the revised minutes was made, seconded and approved.

Meeting on April 25, 2019: A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Gross".