



TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pelham, Massachusetts

Minutes for October 25, 2018

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

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

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the October 11, 2018 meeting were discussed. Three typos were noted and a clarification in one item was suggested. It was moved and seconded that we approve the modified minutes of October 11, 2018. Approved unanimously.

Certificates of Compliance for work done at 22 Amherst Road

The Commission reviewed three Orders of Conditions for work done at 22 Amherst Road in previous years. The three Orders of Conditions included:

DEP File 258-18 (5/31/84),
DEP File 258-46 (5/10/90),
DEP File 258-0087 (10/06/11).

Subsequent to the review it was moved and seconded that a Certificate of Compliance be issued for each of the three Orders of Conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

Site visit to Well Away Farm

Chair MacDonald reported that Kestrel Trust wishes for us to select a time and date to visit the parking area on South Valley Road. A Kestrel representative along with DPW Chief Adamcek and the landowner will also attend. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to propose 1:30 PM on Nov. 4 for the site visit. Chair MacDonald will relay this information to Kestrel.

Planning for October 26, 2018 site visit

Agent Borenstein reminded the Commission that a site visit with Chris Volonte of the Kestrel Trust to the Buffam Brook Community Forest and Pemberton properties is scheduled for October 26. The Commission will meet at 1:30 PM at the Pelham library parking lot to car pool to the two sites. It is likely that Amherst Road residents Judy Eiseman and Lynda Grybko will also be attending the site visits. Chair MacDonald noted that the Light family whose property abuts the Boyden Road entrance of the Community Forest would like to have that entrance moved farther away from their property. The current parking area is currently in the buffer zone. The Commission noted the request and will consider alternate parking/entrance areas during the site visit.

October 25, 2018

Report from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Fall Meeting

Commissioners MacDonald and Gross along with Agent Borenstein reported on the October 20, 2018 Fall Meeting of the MACC in Leominster that they attended. Particularly relevant was a river corridor workshop that provided insight into the DEP thoughts on storm water. Chair MacDonald noted that DEP requirements are stringent but flexible. Based on the workshop presentation, Chair MacDonald believes that the proposed project at the HRD Press property site can meet DEP requirements. A variety of stormwater control systems are acceptable to the DEP. David Cameron from DEP in Springfield suggests that the Commission meet with him when more detailed plans for the 22 Amherst Road project are available. The Commission discussed the possibility that a conservation easement could be obtained for the portion of the HRD Press property on the other side of the river from the main work site. It would then be possible to add and or improve trails on that portion of the property to connect with existing trails. Chair MacDonald noted that it might be possible to construct, under the auspices of the Notice of Intent for the project, a footbridge across the river in order to connect the trail system to the project site and the Town Center.

Bray farm beaver remediation

Chair MacDonald reported on the status of the beaver activity at the Bray farm on Amherst Road. On 10/23/18 the Board of Health issued an order to remove the beavers. Given the rise in the water level of the ice pond abutting Amherst Road, there was a motion to approve a 30 day emergency permit for the Department of Public Works to remove the beaver dams causing the water rise. A provision of the emergency permit is that the start of the 30 days will be set subsequent to a discussion of an appropriate date between DPW chief Adamcek and Chair MacDonald. When the date has been determined it will be added to the permit by Chair MacDonald. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

McClung property purchase for the Community Forest

The US Forest Service has formally notified the Commission that they have approved a time extension to purchase the McClung property as discussed at the October 11 meeting. Although the Commission has full control of the federal funds based on previous approval by the Forest Service and formal acceptance by the Select Board, Chair MacDonald will consult with the Select Board prior to finalizing the purchase. The cost of the land purchase will be \$77-88K, less than the \$139K remaining in the budget. Chair MacDonald will write an informational email to the Select Board members summarizing the purchase (with a copy to the Commission) and will attend the Nov. 3 Select Board meeting to answer Board members' questions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

