



## **TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Pelham, Massachusetts**

Minutes for July 12, 2018

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

**VISITOR:** Paul Gagnon

Chair MacDonald brought the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Paul Gagnon from the Kestrel Land Trust informed the Commission about the submission to the state of a grant proposal to purchase two parcels of land owned by the Fennessey estate. In the proposal, the Commission is designated as the owner of the conservation restriction on the two parcels and Kestrel is designated as the fee owner. Mr. Gagnon noted that it would be simpler to reverse these roles, and that can be attempted after the grant is awarded.

Both of the parcels are landlocked and adjacent to current Kestrel parcels as shown on a map dated 3/9/2018 and left with the Commission Chair. The parcels are 32 and 12.75 acres, respectively and are appraised at \$38,000 and \$15,000. Chair MacDonald said that the Community Preservation Committee will likely support the purchase from Community Preservation funds. As the town needs to approve the purchase, a warrant article for the purchase needs to be drafted. An open meeting to discuss the purchase is planned to be held on September 20.

It was moved and seconded that the town, through the Commission, hold the conservation restriction on these parcels. Approved unanimously. Conservation Agent Borenstein drafted a letter to Kestrel reflecting this vote.

Chair MacDonald reported that the Select Board signed the Conservation Restriction for the Pemberton Parcel that was purchased last year. The signed document has been delivered to Kestrel.

The minutes from the May 10, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously. There was discussion of the June 7, 2018 minutes. Some amendments were suggested. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended minutes subject to review at the next Commission meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

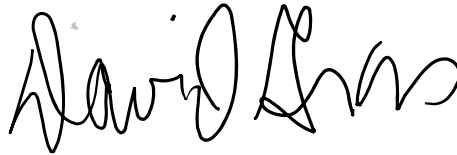
The Commission discussed the site visit of the Altabet property at 75 Amherst Road on July 7. The Altabets want to put a small structure near the back of their property. The details of location were not specified, and the Commission told the Altabets that the Commission could make a determination on the project once it is better defined.

Chair MacDonald asked Commissioner Lukas to comment on the posting for sale of the trailer park at the corner of North Valley and Amherst Road. Commissioner Lukas said that the trailer park went up for sale about 10 days ago and that a purchase offer has been made. He further said that he had contacted the person who made the offer to see if it would be possible to transfer the offer to Pelham, the reason being that this site has been suggested as a good one for affordable housing construction in town. The Commission discussed various issues with the parcel. It was noted that the downslope portion of the parcel, toward Buffam Brook, could be converted into a low-impact public space with waterfront access as part of the overall project, should the town be able to purchase the parcel.

Other items on the meeting agenda were tabled to a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 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 legible than the last name "Gross".