



## **TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Pelham, Massachusetts**

#### **Minutes for April 25, 2019**

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

The meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:03 PM.

#### **Conservation restriction on 22 Amherst Road**

There was discussion of the conservation restriction to be placed on the 22 Amherst Road property to be presented at Town Meeting. The Commission will need to present ideas about the public use of the area adjacent to Buffam Brook at 22 Amherst Road and parcels connected to it.

#### **Plaque for Cynthia Weigel's service on the Conservation Commission**

The Commission discussed the purchase of a plaque to recognize the years of service to the Commission by former Commissioner Weigel. A motion to purchase the plaque from Commission funds was made, seconded and approved.

#### **Review site assessment and AA letter for invasive removal at 116 Harkness Road**

Subsequent to the site visit by the Commission earlier in the week by the Commission, it was agreed that there would be an Advisory Assessment (AA) for work to be done to remove invasives. The AA approves cutting Japanese knotweed and multiflora rose within the buffer of the intermittent stream on the property. The AA falls under the jurisdiction of the Pelham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. Further, subsequent to the above cutting, the AA allows treatment by licensed applicator of herbicide (Rodeo only) during dry season conditions. Agent Borenstein will write and mail the AA letter to the owners.

#### **Upcoming work by the Kestrel Trust**

The Commission clarified that the Town of Pelham (DPW) will be a co-applicant for the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) being submitted by the Kestrel Trust for trail and parking area work at Well Away Farm. Additionally, the Town of Pelham will be a co-applicant for RDAs for Buffam Brook Community Forest and Pemberton Memorial Forest parking construction. In all cases the Department of Public Works will be the town's responsible unit.

The public meeting for the Well Away RDA will be May 9 at 7:30 in the Ramsdell Room of the library. The other public meetings for the Buffum and Pemberton RDAs will be scheduled for a later date. Agent Borenstein will contact DPW Supervisor Adamcek if he wants to attend the May 9 meeting.

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**Conservation agent conflict of interest policy**

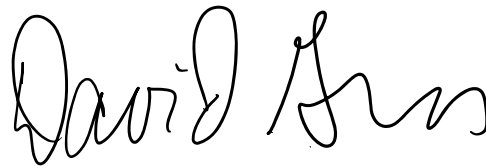
Agent Borenstein reported that she was asked by her employer to do a site visit in Pelham. She had her employer reassign the work to another employee. The Commission had a discussion about how to deal with a similar or more complicated situation such as if she must work on a project that will come to the Commission for a review or ruling. The Commission concluded that if the project is small, the Agent should recuse herself from Commission discussion of the project. If the project is large with a difficult permitting structure sufficient to hire an outside consultant, the Agent should take a leave of absence from her position on the Commission until such time as the permit has been reviewed and granted or denied.

**Future meeting agenda items**

Associate Commissioner Seelig suggested that the Commission have a discussion of the long term plans for timber cutting on Amherst watershed land in Pelham. It was agreed that having a conversation with Brad Broederick, who is the Amherst DPW Forestry officer, would be useful. The Commission should invite him to a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross", with a stylized, cursive script.