

TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pelham, Massachusetts

351 Amherst-Pelham Road

Pelham, MA 01002

Minutes of February 15, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dana MacDonald, Tilman Lukas, Kevin Hartzell, David Gross

Others Present: Allan Wentworth, Charles Thompson, Kat Deely (Kestrel Trust), Tony Rogers

Chairperson Dana MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7pm.

1. Review of Minutes

The Chair moved to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2017 with revisions to typographical errors. The minutes were approved with revisions.

2. Culvert Crossing Buddhist Temple- Alan Wentworth

The Chair explained the process and the application requirements for a permit to extend an existing culvert adjacent to an existing gravel driveway including the fees, plan requirements, and a written description of the proposed work.

3. Pelham Community Forest- Kat Deely, Kestrel Trust

A general discussion was had regarding the scope and structure of the Stewardship Plan for the Community Forest including the submission date and future meeting dates to develop the plan. Kat Deely of the Kestrel Trust will provide dates for an organizational meeting.

4. Pemberton Property Conservation Restriction- Kat Deely, Kestrel Trust

Ms. Deely presented the details of the bargain sale purchase of the Pemberton property. The plan presented by Kestrel Trust is to subdivide the parcel into "north" and "south" lots. The north lot (approx. 16 acres) is to be donated for a conservation tax credit. Kestrel Trust is seeking CPA funds to contribute to acquiring the southern parcel for conservation. The conservation restriction of the south parcel would be held by the Town of Pelham. Ms. Deely is requesting that the commission sign and approve the tax credit to begin the process for acquiring the Pemberton property, emphasizing that such approval at tonight's meeting is only the beginning of the process and is needed to "get in line" for the tax credit.

The Chair emphasized the importance of hunting in the community and requested that hunting be allowed. Ms. Deely responded that she would discuss the matter with the property owner. A discussion regarding hunting and conservation land in the town was had. Ms. Deely understood the concerns of the commission. A motion was made to: 1) sign and approve the tax credit and 2) provide a proposal to the Community Preservation Committee (C.P.C.) for the acquisition of the proposed conservation project subject to; an appropriate agreement or language acceptable to the landowner and the Pelham Conservation Commission to allow hunting. The motion was approved.

5. Rogers Property Site Grading, North Valley Road- Tony Rogers

Mr. Rogers presented questions pertaining to any restrictions for site grading and filling that is outside of, but near the 100' buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland on his property. The

ongoing seasonal site work was previously permitted and is associated with the construction of a new house with roof mounted solar panels. Mr. Rogers provided photos and a description of the area to be filled with borrow generated from on-site excavation and grading for the residence. The area is outside of the 100' buffer zone, but the commission asked that soil and sedimentation barrier be located down slope of the fill area, but not in the buffer zone prior to filling the area and that the placed soil be seeded and covered with a biodegradable erosion control blanket. The commission is to be notified to perform a site visit following the placement of sediment control barriers and soil.

6. Open Space Plan

Discussion postponed until next meeting

7. MACC Annual Conference

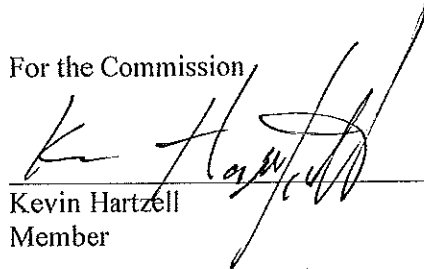
The Chair encouraged Pelham Conservation Commission Members to register and attend the conference.

8. Other Business Added by Members

Chairperson MacDonald and Member Hartzell reported back on their findings regarding the potential job description for hiring a part-time conservation agent.

The meeting was closed at 9pm.

For the Commission



Kevin Hartzell
Member