

## TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pelham, Massachusetts

351 Amherst-Pelham Road

Pelham, MA 01002

**Minutes of July 13, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Hartzell, Dana MacDonald, Cynthia Weigel, David Gross

**Others Present:**

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

### **1. Review of Minutes**

Postponed

### **2. Mr. Mauri, Forester; Buffam Brook Community Forest Stewardship Plan**

Mr. Mauri submitted a proposal to execute the Forest Stewardship Plan for the Buffam Brook Community Forest. The commission requested his attendance to review his proposal and answer some questions pertaining to the cost to perform the work and clarification on the contents and depth of the stewardship plan. His initial proposal referenced a grant from MA DCR of \$4,000. If the grant is approved the fee for the plan would be \$1,760. His proposed cost for the stewardship plan without the grant would be \$5,760. One overall concern of the commission is whether the estimated cost accounts for public input, meetings, and revisions to the plan in order to meet the needs and intent of the community forest. One to two public meetings for input to the forest stewardship plan should be accounted for. The PCC would like to get a draft to the U.S. Forest Service by end of September, and then a final by the end of October.

A lengthy discussion about the contents of the stewardship plan ensued covering a range of topics including;

- stand by stand assessment of the forest and forest use and management based on that assessment
- Mr. Mauri would walk the property with the commission at some point during the draft stage of the stewardship plan development.
- The plan should include relevant aspects of watershed protection, forestry, habitat protection, recreation and education
- Necessary public meetings would be held when a draft is complete but prior to the final stewardship plan
- The final plan shall include or address the input of PCC and town members

The preliminary timeline for the stewardship plan is to have a draft by end of September, followed by a public meeting. The final report is tentatively scheduled for mid-October. Mr. Mauri will address the budget concerns and provide an updated proposal.

A motion was that the PCC accept Mr. Mauri's revised proposal contingent on approval by the Chair and subsequent ratification by the PCC. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. Septic Projects- Alan Weiss, Cold Spring Environmental**

The septic project for the 366 Amherst Road residence will require an RDA. The PCC should plan for an open meeting at our July 27 meeting. A site visit will need to be scheduled for the 141 Amherst Road property.

### **4. Conservation Agent Employment Posting**

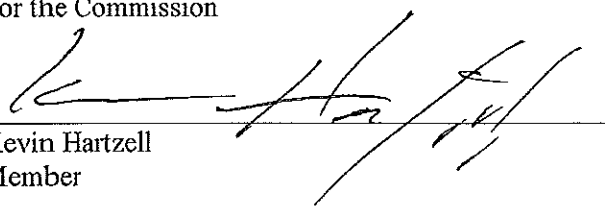
The PCC has two employment descriptions for a conservation agent job (Towns of Holden & Middleton, Massachusetts) that we will use as a template. Motion: Dana & Dave will be the subcommittee to draft the job description to have a draft for the next meeting for the full commission to vote.

### **Other Business Added by Members:**

A line item on the agenda for our next meeting should include the Open Space Plan revisions and outline a strategy for progress and completion.

The meeting was closed at 8:50pm.

For the Commission

  
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Kevin Hartzell  
Member