



TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION Pelham, Massachusetts

Minutes for February 28, 2019

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Karl Martini (Historical Commission), Joseph Larson (Historical Commission), Joe Bianchi, Charles Thompson, Leonor Rodriguez

The public meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:04 PM.

Public Hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability for Proposed Culvert Rehabilitation on North Valley Road (Map 16 Parcel 1) Pelham, MA

Chair MacDonald briefly described the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) submitted by the Pelham Department of Public Works. It was moved that the submitted WPA Form 2 Determination of Applicability be amended to state that the one document will cover apply to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Pelham Wetlands Bylaw. The motion was seconded and approved.

Joe Bianchi, design engineer for the project, described the proposed work to be done. He noted that there is a slight possibility that a stone in the culvert base could become dislodged during construction. In that circumstance, work would need to occur very near to the stream bed. The Commission noted that if such a problem as this occurs, requiring work near the stream bed, then the work site would have to be stabilized, construction halted, and the project managers would have to come back to the Commission for consultation and possible filing of a Notice of Intent or revised RDA.

Joseph Larson from the Pelham Historical Commission (PHC) noted that approximately 30 feet downstream of the proposed culvert construction area is an historic sawmill site. The PHC believes that the original Amythest Brook bridge crossing dates from about 1788. The sawmill predates 1787. The PHC expressed concern about potential incursion into the sawmill site during the proposed culvert work. After some discussion, all parties felt that there was little chance that the sawmill site will be disturbed.

A visitor commented that reopening the bridge will impact the neighborhood due to cut-through traffic. People speed and some GPS systems route cars through North Valley rather down Amherst Road. Commissioner Lukas suggested that this issue should be addressed to the Select Board as it is not within the purview of the Conservation Commission.

It was moved that the Commission issue a negative 3 determination on the RDA. Chair MacDonald read a draft of special conditions for the RDA. The Commission made some small changes, including deletion of original item 10 and addition of an item requiring an effort to secure the site from vandalism during construction. It was moved and seconded that the

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Commission accept the changes. Approved. The negative 3 determination motion was then seconded and approved.

Invoice for Review of McClung Land Purchase Appraisal

Chair MacDonald noted that an appraisal review is required by the US Forest Service for land purchases involving Forest Service funds. Chair MacDonald moved that \$850 be paid to TWHenry Appraisal from the fund for Purchase of Land for the Community Forest for the appraisal review. Seconded and approved.

BBCF Trail Planning Invoice

Agent Borenstein noted that the Kestrel Land Trust (KLT) is still awaiting payment for the \$1,350 invoice related to trail planning for the Buffum Brook Community Forest. The invoice was approved for payment at the February 14, 2019 Commission meeting. The invoice was paid from Community Preservation Committee funds.

Well-Away Farm Parking

Agent Borenstein reported that the KLT had asked for clarification of the RDA being prepared by KLT for trail work at Well-Away Farm. Specifically, KLT wanted to know if the parking area work to be done by the Pelham DPW should be included with the trail work RDA. The Commission concluded that the RDA should include the parking area. A single sentence about it is all that is necessary. KLT's current RDA draft already includes what is necessary. The Commission suggests adding Town of Pelham as an applicant, and then there will be no application fee for the RDA.

Pemberton Memorial Forest Parking

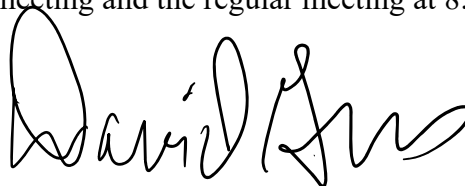
Agent Borenstein reported that the KLT had asked for clarification of the RDA being prepared by KLT for the proposed parking area at the Pemberton Forest conservation area. Specifically, the Pemberton Forest is in mapped Box Turtle habitat, which will complicate an RDA or Notice of Intent. Chair MacDonald noted that the area of the Pemberton Forest where the parking will be located is very close to the road and thus is excluded from the mapped Box Turtle habitat.

Filming at Buffum Falls Conservation Area

Agent Borenstein forwarded to the Commission a request from Emma Houghton-Brown of Nutopia to film Rebecca Spencer running at the Buffam Falls Conservation Area. After discussion it was moved that the Commission supports this use of Buffum Falls Conservation Area. Seconded and approved.

Chair MacDonald moved to close the public meeting and the regular meeting at 8:38 PM. Seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross", is written over the typed name.