



## **TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Pelham, Massachusetts**

#### **Minutes for January 31, 2019**

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

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Abbie Jenks, Judy Eiseman, Lexi Dewey, Pete Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Charlie Thompson

The meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:00 PM.

#### **Discussion with the Planning Board to review the proposed Pelham Stormwater Bylaw**

The discussion revolved around the definition of the Stormwater Authority that will oversee the Stormwater Bylaw being written by the Planning Board. Chair MacDonald suggested that the Conservation Commission be the Authority and that stormwater plans be reviewed by the Commission. He further suggested that plans that are approved by the Commission pass back to the Planning Board for final approval in consort with the overall project plan.

Board member Wilson suggested that having a separate Stormwater Review Board, distinct from the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board, would better serve the town.

There was discussion about the need for an independent (from the design engineer) engineering review of a submitted stormwater plan. The independent review would be contracted by the town and would be paid by the applicant. Commissioner Lukas raised a concern that this might be burdensome for small projects. Board member Wilson noted that any problems that arise subsequent to the planned stormwater abatement construction would likely be the town's responsibility if the town did not engage an engineer in review of the abatement design.

It was agreed that monitoring during and after construction is essential. Chair MacDonald noted that DOT projects require substantial monitoring. For such projects the applicant pays for the monitoring (typically by hiring an environmental consultant).

After further discussion, it was concluded that one possible plan would be that all stormwater plans for the town center that are submitted to the Planning Board will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission. The Commission will review such plans, write recommendations including any conditions that the Commission feels should be required. The Commission will then send its recommendations to the Planning Board, who can accept or modify the recommendations. The Planning Board or the CC would have the option to employ an engineer to review the plan, the cost of which would be paid by the applicant. The Planning Board will be the recognized Stormwater Authority. Further deliberations on the details of this or an alternate plan are needed.

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The Planning Board then convened a separate meeting to further discuss the Stormwater Bylaw and its details.

**Review Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for December 13, 2018 were reviewed. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes with correction of a typographical error on page 2. Approved unanimously.

The minutes for January 10, 2019 were discussed. Commissioner Lukas suggested that clarification was needed in the description of the RDA for the North Valley Road culvert project. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be accepted with the above clarification. Unanimously approved.

**Timing of installation of septic systems**

Chair MacDonald proposed that future septic systems installations be required to be completed before mid-November in order to reduce the likelihood of erosion issues due to limited vegetative regrowth over disturbed soils at the work site. Recent significant problems of siltation barrier failures at 146 & 147 Amherst Road are examples of issues arising from late season construction. It was noted that emergency septic installations could be permitted during the winter. It was suggested that development of a septic installation policy should be done at a future meeting.

**Next meeting agenda items**

The Commission discussed potential agenda items for the Feb. 14 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

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