

**HARVARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2021
APPROVED: JANUARY 6, 2022**

Chair Don Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, virtually, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency and signed into law on June 16, 2021, under MGL Chapter 131 §40 Wetland Protection Act and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 119 Wetland Protection Bylaw

Members Present: Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson, Jaye Waldron, Joanne Ward, Mark Shaw and Eve Wittenberg (Associate Member)

Others Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Boards Administrator/Conservation Agent), Jim Lee (Harvard Conservation Trust), Ben Urquhart (Deer Management Subcommittee), Joe Pulido (Deer Management Subcommittee) and Daniel Tracey

Update from Deer Management Subcommittee

Ben Urquhart, a member of the Deer Management Subcommittee (DMS), stated one deer has been taken from the Blomfelt land; participation has been light, with two weeks left in the season; and the two illegal stands on the Herman Orchard have been removed. Joe Pulido, a member of the DMS, stated the deer count is now up to two, as he took one today on the Herman Orchard. Joanne Ward asked if the warm weather has had an impact on deer movement. Mr. Pulido stated in the warmer weather the deer do not tend to move as much. The two deer taken have been does. Wendy Sisson stated Bob Douglas, chair of the DMS, has been approached to write an article for the Harvard Press. As this is a busy time of year, Ms. Sisson would like to revisit this and review the season by the end of January while it is fresh in our minds. Mr. Urquhart will share that message with Mr. Douglas.

Harvard Conservation Trust Request for Support on the Preservation Elkinson Land, Still River Road

Jim Lee, from Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT), was present to discuss the preservation of the Elkinson property on Still River Road. The site is 2.5 acres that abuts other HCT land. HCT is willing to accept the land for open space purposes with the contingency of a \$2500.00 endowment to assist in maintaining the land. The property owner is willing to provide an endowment of \$1250.00. Wendy Sisson had suggested the Commission provide the additional \$1250.00 in order to allow it to be preserved and maintained by HCT.

Wendy Sisson made a motion to allocate \$1250.00 to assist the HCT in the preservation of the Elkinson land along Still River Road. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Land Stewardship Subcommittee Request to Allocate Funding for Trail Improvements on Holy Hill

Wendy Sisson, chair of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee, explained an area after the causeway on Holy Hill is muddy, but on a slope, therefore a boardwalk would not work. Ms. Sisson has suggested gravel be added in this location, along with a few other areas. Ms. Sisson estimates 10 yards of three-quarter stone at a cost of \$550.00, with rental equipment at \$600.00. Ms. Sisson explained an abutter to Holy Hill has given permission to access the area through their property. Ms. Sisson added there is also cutting and clearing that is in needed in this area as well. Ms. Sisson has located an individual interested in conducting the work at an estimated total cost of \$2600.00. After discussing ways to reduce the cost, Don Ritchie and Tom MacMullin, volunteered their time and equipment to get the job done.

Mark Shaw made a motion to allocate \$600.00 for trail improvements on Holy Hill. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Planning Board Request for Comments – 56 Stow Road

The Commission has no comments to the above-mentioned application.

Request to Extend the Order of Conditions – Pine Hill Village, Pine Hill Village Road, DEP#177-586

Wendy Sisson made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions for Pine Hill Village, DEP#177-586 to December 31, 2022. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Ratify Emergency Certificate of Compliance – 204 West Bare Hill Road, DEP#177-560

Joanne Ward made a motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance for 204 West Bare Hill Road, DEP#177-560. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Approve Invoice

Joanne Ward made a motion to approve the invoices for Oxbow Associates in the amount of \$3929.28 and Heritage Field in the amount of \$3600.00. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Approve Minutes

Jaye Waldron made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021 as amended. Mark Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Land Use Boards Staffing Organization Update

After briefly discussing the meeting this week with Tim Bragan and Erin McBee, Wendy Sisson made a motion to accept the list of tasks to be completed by the full-time conservation agent, with the final version of the job description to be sent to the Commission before approval by the Personnel Board. Jaye Waldron seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Pine Hill Village Update

Liz Allard will remind the developer that “No Salt Area” sign shall be install as soon as possible.

Adjournment

Mark Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. Joanne Ward seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion by a roll call, Wendy Sisson, aye; Jaye Waldron, aye; Joanne Ward, aye; Mark Shaw, aye; and Don Ritchie, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Allard,
Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent

EXHIBITS & OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Conservation Commission Agenda, dated December 16, 2021