

**MINUTES**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**REMOTE PARTICIPATION**  
**June 15, 2020**

**OPENING:** The remote Zoom meeting is being held in pursuant to the Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place.

Christopher Pratt, Chairman	Present
Dave MacWilliams, Vice Chairman	Present
Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner	Absent
Brian Drenen, Commissioner	Present
Brian Pranka, Commissioner	Present
Jerry Patria, Commissioner	Present
Maryssa Cook-Obregon	Present
Dennis Clark, Coordinator	Present

Also in attendance:

Norman Cheever – Lake Management Committee

Richard Zito – Contractor & Bill Gould 105 Point Grove Road property owner

Douglas Moglin, Select Board Vice Chairman

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Chairman Pratt opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and announced the Commission's name, time and date of the meeting and that the meeting was being recorded.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Patria made a motion to accept the minutes of 06/01/2020 as amended. Commissioner Drenen seconded the motion. The roll call vote is as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Maryssa Cook-Obregon	yes
Brian Pranka	yes	Brian Drenen	yes

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Norman Cheever, Lake Management Committee notified the Conservation Commission that signs of a low overhead will be installed at the culverts on Congamond Lakes.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Richard Zito, Contractor  
Bill Gould, Property Owner

**RDA 105 Point Grove Road** Chairman Pratt opened the continuation of the Public Hearing. Mr. Zito shared a presentation of the scope of the entire project including examples of previous

installations and the type/size of machinery to be used. The existing stairs are in disrepair and no longer safely support access to the lake. Sub soils of 6 inches will be removed and replaced with stone dust. There will be 26 granite stairs installed that are 4 feet long and 13 inches deep with a total of three 4 feet by 8 feet landings made from Yankee Cobble pavers. There is a tree that will be removed by tying a rope to the top and pulling it up the hill. Another part of the project is a upper concrete walkway that will be removed and replaced with the same pavers. The elevation from the last step to the lake shore is flat. Commissioner Pranka noted that the presentation was very professional and clearly stated the project. Chairman Pratt made a motion to find a negative determination on the project. Commissioner Cook-Obregon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Maryssa Cook-Obregon	yes
Brian Pranka	yes	Brian Drenen	yes

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Request for a Certificate of Compliance DEP # 292-0343** Coordinator Clark stated that there were still a few items that need to be completed including planting bushes and seeding.

**68 Will Palmer Road / Enforcement Order** Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates, issued an email to Coordinator Clark stating that spoil plies and stockpiled logs were removed. There is restoration in the wetland area of native plant species that have regenerated. There may still be some plantings required. Mr. Nelson will work with the property owner to ensure all is in accordance with the Enforcement Order.

**Annual Town Meeting June 16, 2020** Coordinator Clark reminded the Conservation Commission members of the open air Town Meeting to be held at the High School parking area starting at 6:30. There is a Warrant Article submitted by the Conservation Commission to establish a revolving fund for NOI and RDA's.

**38 Mort Vining Road** Coordinator Clark presented documents from J. S. Smith & Associates for 13 residential ANR lots along Mort Vining Road, one of which is an estate lot. There is also an open area along the roadway for possible future development to the rear of the property. The property is currently in Chapter 61A. The Agricultural Commission discussed this property at their last meeting and issued a letter to the Select Board requesting a Right of First Refusal. The entire lot was on a "wish list" of properties for preservation. Coordinator Clark suggested that the parcel may be developed along the road way, but the rear section should be preserved. Commissioner Cook-Obregon will contact the Franklin and Kestrel Land Trusts to determine if any funding is available for the Town to purchase all, or part of the 80+ acres. The property would not qualify for APR as it has not been farmed for more than a 2 year period. Commissioner Cook-Obregon will also contact Land for Good, an agency that works with property owners and farmers on renting the land for farm use. Select Board Vice Chairman Moglin stated that this is the time for due diligence for open space land. The Select Board would discuss the Right of First Refusal at their next meeting. It may be some time before the property can be developed as there is a process to remove it from Chapter 61A, and back taxes will need to be paid as part of residential lots. The Conservation Commission are in support of preserving all or at least part of the land if possible.

**Granville Gorge Sign** Coordinator Clark presented a sample of a sign proposed for the Granville Gorge. It will be similar to the one created for North Pond. The Commissioners agreed to the design, and suggested that a QR may be included for informational purposes.

**Irrigation Notice Policy** Coordinator Clark reiterated the information from the Agricultural Commission meeting concerning the use of irrigation from the lakes. There was a chemical treatment done which could have impacted the users of lake water for irrigation. Commissioner Cook-Obregon spoke with the farmers using the water and was informed that the lack of, or late notice could have had a detrimental impact on crops. A Policy may be adopted for notification to farmers of the treatment dates so they may be better prepared in the 2021 season.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**21 Bonnieview Road** Coordinator Clark issued an Emergency Certification for repair of the retaining wall. Mr. Grannells and Mr. Brown, DPW, will oversee the project to ensure it is done according to the plans.

**Recreational & Open Space Online Mapping** Coordinator Clark received a quote of \$500.00 to be included as an additional user. Vice Chairman MacWilliams asked if an intern would be useful. At this time no non-employees are allowed in Town Hall. In the event that is lifted, an intern would be extremely helpful. Coordinator Clark is still in need of information from the Park & Rec and the Southwick Schools.

**61 & 63 College Highway** Coordinator Clark stated that Kyle Scott, the new Building Inspector, has already been working on conservation related issues and has been issuing violation notices. One of which is issuance of fines at 159 Berkshire Avenue. The property owner has contracted R. Levesque & Associates concerning the several acres of disturbance on the 9.7 acre lot.

**Enforcement Order DEP # 292-0366** There has been no further update as of this meeting.

**Baseline Report of The Greens** There has been no further information as of this meeting.

**Certificate of Compliance DEP# 292-0362 Granville/Fred Jackson Roads** The project has not been completed as of this meeting.

Chairman Pratt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Vice Chairman MacWilliams seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
David MacWilliams	yes	Maryssa Cook-Obregon	yes
Brian Pranka	yes	Brian Drenen	yes

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is 07/06/2020**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:

Select Board

Town Clerk

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Christopher Pratt, Chairman

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Vice Chairman MacWilliams

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Jerry Patria, Commissioner

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Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

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Brian Drenen, Commissioner

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Brian Pranka, Commissioner

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Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner

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Date