

MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REMOTE PARTICIPATION
August 17, 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	Present
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

Randy Brown, DPW Director

Sofia Bitzas, R. Levesque & Associates

Mr. Bill and Mrs. Beth Malone, property owners 42 Depot Street

Marcus Phelps, Planning Board Member

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

Vice Chairman MacWilliams made a motion to table the minutes of 08/17/2020 as they were not made available for review prior to the opening of the meeting. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote is as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS

DPW Vegetation management Plan (VMP) Mr. Randy Brown, DPW Director, presented documentation on a proposal for managing vegetation along municipal Rights of Way (ROW). The primary objective of this VMP is to provide the public with safe and unobstructed ROWs while minimizing reliance upon herbicides. The types of vegetation under consideration for control
CC 08172020

include hazardous, detrimental, and nuisance. The Town is using mechanical and hand cutting of target vegetation for control usually twice a year. However, it is time consuming and only a temporary solution. Though mowing will still be implemented, chemical treatment will reduce a substantial amount of growth. Mr. Brown presented a table that identified sensitive areas, ~~no~~ and limited spray areas that may be near a wetland and/or water source, and areas where there is erosion will be eliminated. Other neighboring Cities and Towns are using similar controls. A licensed applicator will be contracted with an approximate yearly cost of \$6,000.00, and the DPW will work with individual property owners should they choose not to have the application. Members of the Conservation Commission did have concerns relative to the application and its impact on potential water sources and wetlands. The submitted plan will be reviewed and comments/concerns will be forwarded to Mr. Brown

Sofia Bitzas, R. Levesque & Associates

RDA 42 Depot Street Chairman Pratt opened the Public Hearing by reading the legal ad as posted in Reminder Publications on August 10th. Ms. Bitzas presented a site plan showing a wetland buffer to the west of the property. The 22 acre lot has a dwelling, barn, garage and shed. Coordinator Clark noted that it could be difficult to identify the buffer zone due to the recent drought. Commissioners agreed to conduct a site visit on Thursday August 27th at 10:00 am. Commissioner Mizanoglu made a motion to approve a continuation of the Public Hearing. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote of the Commission is as follows:

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

LPP Updates Chairman Pratt related that Chief Bishop has been enforcing lake regulations with an increase in patrol and issuing fines.

Coordinator Clark received a request from the property owner of 14 Berkshire Avenue concerning the installation of a removable dock. The plans will need to be reviewed in detail, but may be permitted under the Local Permitting Program rather than requiring an RDA or NOI. Norman Cheever, LMC, related that there is a 12% increase in boat activity on the lakes from previous years. Mr. Cheever also requested if a document can be issued to lake property owners that will require a signature stating that they understand the rules and regulations of the lake. A document can be issued when the LPP renewals are sent in 2021.

Goose Pond Plant Survey Permission Coordinator Clark related that a request was made from Emma Byerly, Lovejoy Conservation Intern, to visit Conservation Commission owned land near Goose Pond to determine if Slender Cottongrass plants are present on the site. The plant is an endangered species and will be documented if observed at the location. The Commission agreed that this request was acceptable.

New England Scenic Trail Coordinator Clark stated that DPW determined that there is no existing drainage issue to the neighboring property, and one will not be created with the approved plans for ADA accessibility. The Appalachian Mountain Club established an ADA Grant for handicap accessibility and the project has gone out for bid.

Town Hall Protocol Coordinator Clark received a notification from Tammy Spencer, Board of Health Director, concerning returning to Town Hall to conduct meetings. Currently Board and Commission members will be allowed in the building only when necessary. Cleaning protocols will need to be established before meetings are conducted within the building. The “Gold Standard” that was established included meeting remotely.

MACC Fall Conference MACC sent an email about their “virtual” Fall Conference the week of October 17 – 24th. An email will be issued requesting more details on the subject matter for the conference and if there will be a charge for attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

There has been no new information on all the old business listed below.

Recreational & Open Space Online Mapping .

Baseline Report for The Greens

Enforcement Order DEP # 292-0366

61 & 63 College Highway

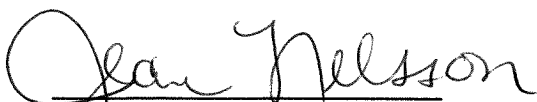
Certificate of Compliance DEP# 292-0362 – Granville & Fred Jackson Roads

Vice Chairman MacWilliams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is 09/21/2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:

CC 08172020

Select Board
Town Clerk

Christopher Pratt, Chairman

Vice Chairman MacWilliams

Jerry Patria, Commissioner

Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

Brian Drenen, Commissioner

Brian Pranka, Commissioner

Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner

Date