

MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
HYBRID PARTICIPATION
November 21, 2022

OPENING: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission opened at 7:00 via hybrid. Chairman MacWilliams announced the names, time and date of the meeting, and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

ATTENDANCE

David MacWilliams, Chairman	Present
Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman	Present
Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner	Absent
Brian Drenen, Commissioner	Present
Jerry Patria, Commissioner	Absent
Kevin Solek, Commissioner	Absent
Andrew Reardon, Commissioner	Present

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Guay, 173 Mort Vining Road, related information from the cleanup at the Sofinowski preserve. There is one area that is completed with only brush piles that need to be removed. Another section is 70 to 80 percent complete. The clean ups will continue as weather permits.

Cynthia Lorge, 94 Mort Vining Road, noted that there is a water problem on the tree belt after a rain event. Water is crossing her driveway from a neighboring property. Chairman MacWilliams asked that the source of the water be defined to determine if it is a wetland issue, or a drainage issue that needed to be addressed by DPW. Coordinator Pooler did conduct a site visit with Mr. Brown, DPW Director and found the area to be dry, however there is a new berm installed by DPW.

MINUTES

Commissioner Drenen made a motion to accept the minutes of November 7, 2022. Vice Chairman Cheever seconded the motion. The roll call vote of the Commission was unanimous in favor.

Dave MacWilliams yes
Brian Drenen yes

Norm Cheever yes
Andrew Reardon yes

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Andrew Reardon, Property Owner

1 Hudson Drive DEP # 292-0410 Chairman MacWilliams stated as there are only four members of the Conservation Commission, with Commissioner Reardon being among the four, there would not be a sufficient quorum for a continuation of the Public Hearing.

Oak Ridge Estates DEP # 292-0409 Chairman MacWilliams read into record a request for a continuation of the Public Hearing. Commissioner Reardon made a motion for a continuation. Vice Chairman Cheever seconded the motion. The roll call was unanimous in favor.

Dave MacWilliams yes
Brian Drenen yes

Norm Cheever yes
Andrew Reardon yes

Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates

194 Hillside Road Mr. Nelson presented a revised site plan for the dwelling at the location. The change is for the deck at the rear of the dwelling but has no impact with the 50 foot buffer. As an Order of Conditions has already been created, Mr. Nelson will issue an addendum with a copy of the revised plans formerly dated on 5/16/22 to 11/19/22.

E.coli Testing of Congamond Lakes The Board of Health only tests at the Town Beach during the season. The Select Board are holding meetings with the various Boards and Committees including Lake Management, CRC, and Conservation. One issue is who will pay for testing in various areas around the lakes, and who will do the testing. The focal point will be to identify the source of high E.coli counts and to make the data public so those who use the lakes can make an educated decision on its use. This past year high counts at the Town Beach were contributed by a lack of rain and high temperatures.

National Honor Society Chairman MacWilliams and Coordinator Pooler met with students who are interested in conservation issues. It was suggested that the students start with the North Pond property to clean trash, do plantings and make the trails more accessible. Chairman MacWilliams will meet with the students on November 22nd.

Forest Cutting Plan 302 Granville Road Coordinator Pooler was notified of the plan that was not on file in the Conservation office. The future plan of the property is to plant a vineyard. The trees being cut are around the perimeter of the proposed area to be planted. As the plan currently stands, there is no issue relative to the Commission, however there may be a wetland crossing in future plans that will require filing.

Noble Steed Crossing Coordinator Pooler met with DEP on the property who stated that they were only interested in debris in the fill that is 6 inches or larger. The Conservation Commission can issue an Enforcement Order to remove the material not allowed. The Order of Conditions is to expire in January and DEP suggested that the wetlands be re-delineated and a plan for replication should be submitted. An Enforcement Order will be drafted which will include Mr. Brown from DPW.

Sofinowski Land Preserve Coordinator Pooler stated that on December 3rd at 9:00 am Mr. Jacob Maco will review the workings of forest cutting plans.

LMC Update Vice Chairman Cheever stated that the State has not yet made a decision on the Chapter 91 docks for the business.

Sub Committee As of this meeting, there was no update.

Civic Fund Christmas Tree Chairman MacWilliams noted that the trees outside of Town Hall are purchased for the Civic Fund. The Commissioners were welcome to make biodegradable decorations and make a donation. Each tree is \$150.00.

Trust for Public Land The representative scheduled a walk on November 30 from noon to 2:00 pm.

Mass Trail Grants Chairman MacWilliams noted that the application for the grant is open until February 2023. Commissioner Reardon and Coordinator Pooler will work on the application which can be for motorized and non-motorized conservation properties.

As there was not further business to discuss, Chairman MacWilliams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43. Commissioner Drenen seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Dave MacWilliams yes
Brian Drenen yes

Norm Cheever yes
Andrew Reardon yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:
Select Board
Town Clerk

CC 110722

Dave MacWilliams, Chairman

Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman

Jerry Patria, Commissioner

Brian Drenen, Commissioner

Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

Kevin Solek, Commissioner

Andy Reardon, Commissioner

Date