

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
HYBRID PARTICIPATION  
December 18, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

Christopher Pratt, Chairman	Present
Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman	Absent
Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner	Absent
Jerry Patria, Commissioner	Present
Kevin Solek, Commissioner	Absent
Andrew Reardon, Commissioner	Present
Dennis Clark, Commissioner	Present

Chairman Pratt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM by announcing the date, time and members in attendance.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Patria made a motion to accept the minutes of 12/4/23. Commissioner Reardon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Andy Reardon	yes	Dennis Clark	yes

**Public Comments** There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates  
Mr. Frank Grillo, Owner

**DEP # 292-0415 81 Point Grove Road** Chairman Pratt opened the continuation of the Public Hearing. Mr. Nelson related information concerning the removal of the lodge. At this time, they believe there are no beavers in residence. MA Fish & Wildlife has jurisdiction relative to the removal for land under water. The Conservation Commission can only approve removal for the material at/above the water line. Mr. Grillo needs to apply to the State for a Chapter 91 license and provide plans to the Conservation Commission showing the location and configuration of the proposed marina dock(s). Once it is determined if dredging is needed, Mr. Grillo will need approval from the State. The Lake Management Committee is in favor of the

dock change as it may provide safer access between Middle and North Ponds. Chairman Pratt made a motion to accept a continuation of the Public Hearing at a TBD date as the Conservation Commission may/may not meet in the month of January due to holidays. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Andy Reardon	yes	Dennis Clark	yes

Mr. Jim Boyle, Owner

**DEP # 292-0412 662A College Highway** Chairman Pratt opened the continuation of the Public Hearing. Mr. Boyle attended the meeting via Zoom and was informed that there is not a sufficient voting quorum at this meeting. The information from DPW had been forwarded to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Boyle requested that the Conservation Commission issue a “draft” Order of Conditions to the Planning Board for their meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

As there was no voting quorum, and the last meeting had a TBD date for continuation. The Public Hearing will be held at the next available meeting.

Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates

**DEP# 292-0369 Partial Release of the Order of Conditions** Mr. Ryan Nelson requested a partial release of the Order of Conditions for The Greens East subdivision for lots #13 and 16. Both lots are outside of the jurisdictional Buffer Zone. Coordinator Pooler and Vice Chairman Cheever conducted a site visit and found no issue with the lots, but noted that silt was running down the roadway and was reported to DEP. Commissioner Clark made a motion to accept the partial Certificate of Compliance. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Andy Reardon	yes	Dennis Clark	yes

Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates

**31 Sam West Road Possible Wetland Violation** Mr. Nelson presented a draft plan for the restoration of the wetland disturbance. Commissioner Clark made a motion to issue and ratify an Enforcement Order in accordance with the plan that was presented at the meeting. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Andy Reardon	yes	Dennis Clark	yes

**107 South Loomis Street** Select Board member Ms. Gale requested this item be put on the agenda, but was not in attendance. A complaint was submitted in May, but no action has been taken as of this meeting. Ms. Gale was referring to another recent complaint, however, the Conservation Commission has not received any formal information from that complaint. The issue is tabled.

Mr. Val Shevtz, Owner  
Mr. Jeff Smith, Salvini & Associates

**Erosion Control Monitor DEP # 292-0416 72A Mort Vining Road** Commissioner Clark made a motion to have Mr. Smith, Salvini & Associates approve as the Erosion Control Monitor for the property. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Andy Reardon	yes	Dennis Clark	yes

There was an issue with the fill being brought in. It was dumped at a location where some of it was up against the silt fence. There had been a lot of rain, but it did not appear to go into a resource area nor have a lot of silt.

**Mort Vining Subdivision DEP # 292-0409** Vehicle trucks were seen going through a wetland in an aerial image. The owner reported that it was due to a fire truck responding to illegal burning which had to be removed with an excavator. Another issue is several trees (over an acre) were removed from the subdivision before a Storm Water plan was approved by DPW. There are isolated wetlands in the area. Mr. Smith will return and flag the area where they may have been removed. There is an area where a waddle and silt fence is installed which water may be directed to a resource area. Mr. Shevtz claimed that it was 700 feet from the resource area in the north entry between lots 7 and 9. At this time, there is no Planning Board approval for the subdivision, only for ANR lots. Mr. Smith will resubmit a request for only lots 8 & 9 to be released. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the partial release of the Order of Conditions for those lots. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Andy Reardon	yes	Dennis Clark	yes

Mr. Jessie Saltmarsh, Owner

**Noble Steed Crossing DEP # 292-0280** Coordinator Pooler requested that Mr. Saltmarsh attend the meeting concerning silt being deposited into the resource area. Water is over flowing from the top of the silt fence. Mr. Saltmarsh stated that there have been repairs on the silt fencing, but they have been damaged again. Sediment is being deposited along the roadway into the culvert. Mr. Saltmarsh stated that the recent excessive rain has been an issue with maintaining the storm drains. The restoration plan is in process with Mr. Salvini and should be ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates

**24 & 26 Nicholson Hill SWK 454-0127** There are two isolated wetlands with clearing along the hillside. In September, the Conservation Commission requested a silt fence be installed along the 100 foot buffer. The silt fence was installed, but is not adequate. Coordinator Pooler contacted the applicant who assured her it would be repaired, but as of this meeting, no repair has been made. Coordinator Pooler will contact the applicant and relate that the silt fence

must be repaired immediately and include hay bales or face a potential \$300.00 per day fine, and a letter to be issued by the consultant stating that it is completed.

**FY 2025 Budget** The budget items will be reviewed as they are issued. For example, the MACC dues has increased to \$311.00 per year. Also, Coordinator Pooler has limited hours and there is not sufficient budgeted funding to increase her hours. Coordinator Pooler will contact the Conservation Commission liaison for help with submitting the budget.

## OLD BUSINESS

Andrea Sheldon, Owner

**579 Forest Road Possible Wetland Violation** Ms. Sheldon presented photos of the property from 2015 showing that the water line has remained the same until the current year. Vice Chairman Cheever was not in attendance to present further information he may have researched. There is still an issue on land that is being addressed by the Suffield Conservation Commission. Commissioner Clark made a motion to have this issue removed from any further discussion. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt    yes  
Andy Reardon        yes

Jerry Patria        yes  
Dennis Clark        yes

**Meeting Schedule** Coordinator Pooler made note that due to holidays, there will be no meetings in the month of January. The Commissioners in attendance agreed to meet on January 8, 2024. Coordinator Pooler will contact the members not in attendance to determine their participation.

**13 Berkshire Avenue Donation** Coordinator Pooler stated that there has been no further information from the Select Board office as of this meeting.

As there was no further business to discuss, Commissioner Patria made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Christopher Pratt    yes  
Andy Reardon        yes

Jerry Patria        yes  
Dennis Clark        yes

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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Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman

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Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

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Jerry Patria, Commissioner

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Kevin Solek, Commissioner

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Andy Reardon, Commissioner

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Dennis Clark, Commissioner

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Date