

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 8, 2002
MINUTES**

7:00 PM The meeting was called to order by Chairman Corwin.
All members were present.

Discussion – Board of Health – Mosquito Control

Dr. Susan Horowitz, Chairman of the Groton Board of Health was present to speak to the members about a plan for mosquito control to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in April and the Town will be asked for funding at that time. She would like to have a joint meeting with both boards sometime in December or January to discuss what action should be taken.

The members would like expert opinions and information before any decisions are made.

They want information on the use and effect of chemicals or chemicals in the form of bacteria used to kill the mosquitoes.

Dr. Horowitz would like to start with the control of mosquitoes at the playing fields and the bandstand. She will also check with the Park Department to see at what areas mosquitoes have been a problem.

Chairman Corwin was concerned with the effect on vernal pools.

Dr. Horowitz will take a map and go through the Town to decide what areas are of most concern and will take special care to keep away from vernal pools.

7:25 PM Request for Determination – Town of Groton – 480 Pepperell Road

Clerk O'Connor read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by the Town of Groton Highway Department for the removal of silt and gravel from the drainage pond at 480 Pepperell Road on Assessors' Lot 213/68.

Thomas Delaney, Highway Surveyor was present.

The Commission members walked the site on Saturday with Mr. Delaney and Paul Shay, homeowner.

The Highway Department will clean out silt and sand that was washed into the front portion of the pond from the Throne Hill Subdivision and the Town road drainage systems. They will not dredge the entire pond.

Vice chairman Owen moved to issue a negative determination (#5) no Notice of Intent is required; the project is maintenance of an existing farm pond.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COC – Malagodi - 85 Hubbard Road

The members inspected the site on Saturday. Member Morrison moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Richard Malagodi, 85 Hubbard Road, for septic system on Springy Pond, DEP #169-808.

The motion was seconded and passed 6-1 (Chace abstained).

COC – Knittel – 341 Hill Road

The members inspected the site on Saturday. Member Auman moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to James Knittel, 341 Hill Road, for landscaping and replication area DEP #169-721. The motion was seconded and passed 6-1 (Chace abstained).

COC – Candlelight Realty Trust – Lots 3, 4 and 5 Autumn Leaf Drive

The members inspected the site on Saturday. Member Morrison moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Candlelight Realty Trust for the replication area for Lots 3, 4 and 5 Autumn Leaf Drive, DEP # 169-719. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COC – J. Harry Rich State Forest – Nod Road

Vice chairman Owen inspected the removal of old buildings in the J. Harry Rich State Forest on Nod Road and moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP # 169-723. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COC – GDRSD -South Middle School – Main Street

The members inspected the site on Saturday. Member Morrison moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District for the addition to the South Middle School on Main Street, DEP # 169-653. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

McElroy – 114 Hollis St – Req. for COC

The members inspected the property of John McElroy, 114 Hollis St., on Saturday and found the area was not stable. The silt fence should stay in place since there is more work to be done. There was very little vegetation. When the vegetation has

been established, the silt fence may be removed and the Commission will inspect it again. No Certificate of Compliance will be issued at this time.

7:35 PM Request for Determination – R. Black – Burnt Meadow Road Waterline

Clerk O'Connor read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by Robert Black for the installation of a water main from the intersection of Route 40 for approximately 1,300 feet on Burnt Meadow Road.

Mr. Black was present. Member Morrison stepped down (the waterline will be run to his house).

Mr. Black explained that the waterline will service five houses on Burnt Meadow Road. They will install approximately 200-300 feet of pipe per day and backfill at the end of each day. The project should take about 10 day to allow for pressure testing as well as installation of the pipe.

Member Clements moved to issue a negative determination with the condition to have hay bales on site available for installation if necessary to prevent erosion to the resource.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COC – Annese – 311 Forge Village Road

The members inspected the site on Saturday. Member Auman moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Steve Annese for the new house construction at 311 Forge Village Road, DEP # 169-810. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COC - Seavey – 71 McLains Woods Road

The members inspected the house construction on Saturday. Member Morrison moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to John and Wendy Seavey, 71 McLains Woods Road, DEP # 169-426. The motion was seconded and passed 6-1 (Owen abstained).

COC – Lot 3 Integrity Way – Replication

On Saturday, the members inspected the new house construction and replication area on Lot 3 Integrity Way. Clerk O'Connor moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Integrity Builders for Lot 3 Integrity Way, DEP # 169-671. The motion was seconded and passed 4-3 (Auman, Morrison and Corwin abstained).

COC – Lot 4 Integrity Way

The members inspected the new house construction at Lot 4 Integrity Way. Member Auman moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Integrity Builders for DEP # 169-670. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COC – Detention Pond – Integrity Way

The members inspected the detention pond on Integrity Way on Saturday. Member Clements moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Integrity Builders for DEP # 169-672. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Minutes – September 24, 2002

Vice Chairman Owen moved to accept the minutes of September 24, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Open Space Plan Meeting

The members of the Open Space Plan Committee will be contacted to set up another meeting. It will be on October 29, 30 or 31, whichever is best for the members.

Wiewel Conservation Land

Mrs. Marin, abutter to the Wiewel CC Land called the office to say she would not be attending the meeting this evening. She reported that one of her neighbors purchased a lawnmower that could keep the grass six inches tall. Ms. Montgomery told her that the letter to the neighbors stated that they were not to mow the Conservation Land at all for the entire 50 ft width.

Chairman Corwin said there was no need to mow the land this year. Next year the Commission will mow a path for a trail. Bruce Easom from the Trails Committee was present and reported that there is still not an obvious difference between the trail and the landowners property. It appears they are still mowing it.

8:00 PM Discussion – Groton Woods Subdivision and Conservation Land

The homeowners in Groton Woods Subdivision abutting Conservation Land between Hidden Valley Road and Duck Pond Drive were present to discuss use and maintenance of the Conservation Land.

Chairman Corwin explained to the audience that the Trails Committee marked the trails at the request of the Commission.

Loriann Elmali, 67 Hidden Valley Road, presented the members with a 16 page document outlining the neighbors concerns.

The neighbors expressed concern with people walking near their backyards.

Vice chairman Owen explained that the trail is part of an old cart path. It is historic.

The neighbors admitted to mowing the trail for aesthetic reasons.

They thought people could walk on the street and not the trail.

Paul Funch from the Trails Committee explained that many parcels were being marked and maintained just like this one.

Groton Woods was not singled out. He explained how the trails connect Conservation parcels and allow hikers to safely walk from one parcel to another.

The homeowners will get together and come back to the Commission with a proposal for use and maintenance of the land sometime in the future.

8:35 PM Discussion – Ames Meadows

Member Morrison reported that he attended the Town Forest Committee meeting when the use of Town Forest was discussed. The members are studying use of the 500 acres for motorized vehicles. They did not come to any conclusion or set a rules or regulations at the meeting.

Ames Meadows Conservation Land abuts the Town Forest and neighbors had expressed concerns about motorized vehicles going onto the CC land.

A public hearing will be held on October 22, 2002 to discuss establishing Rules and Regulations for the land.

Member Clements will talk to Selectman Chamberlain about setting up a meeting with the BOS, the CC and Town Forest Committee.

Signs for Groton Hills Conservation Land

Abutters to the Groton Hills Conservation Land called the office to ask when the CC was going to post the “No Hunting – No Motorized Vehicles” signs.

It was decided that any interested members would meet with the neighbors on Kailey’s Way on Saturday to put up the signs.

Yard Waste on CC Land

There have been several reports of abutters placing yard waste on Conservation Land in various parts of Town.

Member Morrison moved to give Clerk O’Connor the task of writing an article for the local papers to alert homeowners about stewardship and use of Conservation Land.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Naming Self-Help Conservation Land on Skyfields Drive

Jean Temple, Skyfields Drive, called the office to ask when the Commission was going to discuss naming the property on Skyfields Drive, purchased from Leon Hurd.

Chairman Corwin said she saw no reason to revisit the subject.

Member Clements said that the people who signed the petition to name the property for the Hurd’s have a right to be at the meeting when a vote is taken.

No motion was made to bring the subject up for consideration.

Trail Markings by Developers

Member Auman moved to send a letter to the Planning Board requesting that trails be marked by developers, as defined by the Trails Committee, when setting up a system with the Planning Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Comments to EOEPA for Landwest Academy Hill MEPA Report

Member Clements requested that a letter be sent to Arthur Pugsley, MEPA Unit, EOEPA with comments regarding Academy Hill Subdivision.

Member Morrison moved to send a letter that the Commission has concerns about impacts on the environment and looks to MEPA and the NHESP to analyze and carefully scrutinize any potential impact to rare species and their habitat.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bylaw Discussion

It was decided to postpone the discussion for grading for septic systems in the buffer zone as stated in the bylaw.

Order of Conditions – Town of Dunstable – Lake Massapoag Drawdown

Vice chairman Owen moved significance, regular and special conditions for the drawdown of Lake Massapoag for weed control DEP #169-845. The motions were seconded and passed unanimously. The OOC is on file in the Commission office.

Comments to Planning Board – Cranston Construction – Lot 3 Affordables

A memo will be sent to the Planning Board that none of the proposed work as shown on the plan is under the jurisdiction of the CC.

Use of Williams Barn

Town Counsel will be asked for an opinion for the appropriate use of Williams Barn. It should be noted that it is a Historic Barn and on Conservation Land.

Advertising Conservation Assistant Position

The position of Conservation Assistant will have to be advertised since Ms. Montgomery is retiring on December 31, 2002. She will get information from other departments to use as a guide.

New Dock – Sargisson Beach

Ms. Montgomery reported that she is getting prices for a new dock for Sargisson Beach. The present dock is very old and in need of repair and is not environmentally friendly.

It may cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

9:45 PM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Montgomery
Conservation Assistant