

## GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

John Smigelski (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Peter Morrison (Vice Chairman), Susan Black (Clerk), Eileen McHugh, Marshall Giguere, and Bruce Easom present. Conservation Administrator Takashi Tada was present. S. Black read the public hearing/meeting notices at the indicated times.

#### 7:00 p.m. – Discussion: Petapawag Interpretive Signage Study, Mike Roberts

Mike Roberts confessed that his goal of preparing a draft interpretive signage policy/guideline for the Conservation Commission was more complex than he anticipated, and he had little to show for his efforts thus far. He asked if the Commission would allow him to narrow the scope of project to focus solely on the interpretive signage pilot project at Petapawag Boat Launch. He would not charge for any of his work thus far.

Chairman Smigelski suggested Mr. Roberts prepare a revised scope of work and come back to the Commission for further discussion. Mr. Roberts agreed to do so.

Moving on to General Business items, the Commission approved payment of an invoice from The Groton Herald for a legal notice in the amount of \$45.00.

The Commission reviewed draft meeting minutes from 1/26/2016. There were no comments.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded, it was

VOTED: to approve the meeting minutes from 1/26/2016, as written. The vote was unanimous.

P. Morrison provided a summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Groton Conservation Summit held on 2/3/2016 at Lawrence Academy. He was pleased to see so many different groups participate, and he thought the event went well. He was particularly impressed by the students from Groton-Dunstable Regional High School's Environmental Club. T. Tada added that he received positive feedback from a number of attendees.

On the topic of Land Management updates, T. Tada reported that he and Chairman Smigelski walked the overgrown areas along the perimeter of the Surrenden Farm hay field that the abutter, John Maynard, offered to clean up. Mr. Maynard was given permission to do the work.

T. Tada also reported that Paul Funch burned the brush piles at McLains Woods Conservation Area.

E. McHugh provided an Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee update. She said the committee meets again next Tuesday. They will review Lawrence Academy's proposed realignment of Powderhouse Road, and Groton School's proposed North Access driveway.

B. Easom provided a Community Preservation Committee update. He reported the public hearing for new funding applications had to be postponed due to inclement weather. The new hearing date is TBD.

7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing: NOI, Sewer Connection, 116 Boston Road, MassDEP # not issued  
Applicant/owner: Dorothy Janes & Shane Grant  
Representative: David Erickson, attorney

T. Tada summarized the NOI, which is an after-the-fact filing as required by the Enforcement Order issued to Ms. Janes for unpermitted work within Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone. The work involved connecting the existing structure to the Town's sewer system. Mr. Grant installed straw wattles around the disturbed area as required by the Enforcement Order. The site walk planned for 2/6/2016 was canceled due to inclement weather. MassDEP has not yet issued a file number for this project.

M. Giguere asked about rare species issues. T. Tada said the property is not located within mapped rare species habitat.

P. Morrison expressed concern about stabilization of the work area and asked it had been, or would be, loamed and seeded. Mr. Grant explained that the first half of sewer pipe, closer to Boston Road, went through the existing grassed area, while the second half of pipe went through existing tile walkway and pavement before connecting to the southeast corner of the building. He said he pulled up the walkway tiles to install the pipe, and he plans to rebuild the walkway as it was. He will wait until construction of the new medical building on the adjacent property (120 Boston Road) is completed before he re-seeds the grassed area, which is right next to the construction entrance and could easily be damaged by the heavy equipment.

Ms. Janes asked if she could be allowed to create an opening in the straw wattles to allow people to access the building, per her insurance company's requirement. The Commission said she could open up the wattles in front of the building entrance.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to continue the public hearing for 116 Boston Road to 2/23/2016. The vote was unanimous.

7:30 p.m. – Public Hearing (cont'd): NOI, single family home, 211 Whiley Road (Scalley),  
MassDEP #169-1130

Applicants: Tim & Stephanie Scalley

Owner: Robin F. Lawrence

Representative: Don Black; Jack Visniewski of Cornerstone Land Consultants

Site Walk: 9/12/2015

Don Black and Tim Scalley were present. Mr. Black announced that they received approval from the Board of Health to install a new, deeper point well for drinking water, in the same location as the existing shallow well. He provided a revised NOI site plan showing an additional row of straw wattles around the existing well house where the new well will be driven.

S. Black asked about the septic system status. Mr. Black said the septic system is on the high side of the house. They have proposed to add a retaining wall around the tank and pump chamber to protect those features. The leaching field is under a portion of the existing gravel driveway/parking area that is proposed to be reduced in area. The system is Title V compliant.

E. McHugh and M. Giguere asked for clarification of the proposed driveway. Mr. Black said there is an open, undefined gravel area in front of the house that has been used as a driveway/parking area. The NOI plan defines a proper, graded driveway for the attached garage of the proposed new house. The driveway surface will be packed gravel/crushed stone, while the former driveway area above the leaching field will also remain unpaved.

B. Easom asked about runoff mitigation. Mr. Black said they plan to install a French drain around the new house.

T. Tada reminded the applicants to submit a copy of the revised plan to NHESP for comments on the additional work to install the well. NHESP approved the original NOI plan on 10/21/2016.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing for 211 Whiley Road, MassDEP #169-1130, to  
2/23/2016.

7:45 p.m. – Public Hearing (cont'd), NOI, Boulder Wall, 60 Valley Road (Johnson), MassDEP  
#169-1125

Applicant/owner: Paul Johnson

Site Walk: 6/6/2015

Mr. Johnson emailed another request to further continue the hearing.

M. Giguere expressed frustration with the applicant's repeated requests to continue the hearing. He felt the Commission had given Mr. Johnson plenty of time to produce a revised plan. M. Giguere said he was inclined to close the hearing and issue a denial of the NOI.

Chairman Smigelski and others felt the Commission should give Mr. Johnson the courtesy of an ultimatum letter with a set date by which he needs to provide new information.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded, it was

VOTED: to direct T. Tada to send a letter requiring the applicant, Paul Johnson of 60 Valley Road, to provide new information to the Commission by the next meeting on 2/23/2016. If no new information is provided, the Commission will move to close the hearing and issue a denial. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further business, upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by M. Giguere, it was

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Notes taken by Takashi Tada  
Conservation Administrator

**Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:**

1. NOI, 116 Boston Road, MassDEP # not issued
2. NOI, 211 Whiley Road, MassDEP # 169-1130
3. NOI, 60 Valley Road, MassDEP #169-1125
4. Meeting Minutes, 1/26/2016

**Approved 02/23/2016**