

GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Members Present: John Smigelski (Chair), Peter Morrison (Vice Chair), Olin Lathrop (Clerk), Bruce Easom, Eileen McHugh, Marshall Giguere

Members Absent: Susan Black

Others Present: Takashi Tada (Conservation Administrator)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Smigelski.

General Business:

Invoice: Groton Herald.

164 Main St., MassDEP#169-1152, Draft Order of Conditions: P. Morrison made a motion to approve an Order of Conditions (WPA) for 164 Main St., MassDEP#169-1152. M. Giguere seconded and the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

P. Morrison made a motion to approve an Order of Conditions (Bylaw) for 164 Main St., MassDEP#169-1152. E. McHugh seconded and the motion passed (5-1), with B. Easom voting against.

-Strike conditions #5 and #10.

-E. McHugh and B. Easom discussed planting native shrubs between the basin and wetlands.

7:18 Discussion: Aquatic Weed Management, Lost Lake/Knops Pond, MassDEP #169-1086
Presenters: Brad Harper, President of Groton Lakes Association (GLA), and GLA members Art Prest, Alex Woodle, Jim Luening

Mr. Harper provided a summary of 2016 weed management activities in Lost Lake/Knops Pond. He also presented a 2017 proposal which was similar to 2016. The Springy Cove fanwort looks good. The Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed will be treated with Diquat. The Fanwort will be treated with Clipper (flumioxazin) and copper sulfate will be used if needed to treat algal bloom.

Of note: The Bladderwort was late blooming in 2016. Mechanical harvesting could be done but a new Order of Conditions would be required. Alex said it doesn't "cut" anything but just picks up free floating plants, noting that this is a native "nuisance" plant.

Town Meeting presentation: P. Morrison will present slides at Town Meeting re: CPC request for Conservation Fund.

7:30 p.m. – Public Hearing: RDA, Bridge and Trail Work, Parcel 250-95, Eagle Scout Project (J. Sickles)

Owner/Applicant: Jeremy Sickles, Troop 3

J. Sickles said his project is to relocate the trail away from the stream and add a trail bridge at the crossing.

E. McHugh said it is a great project, noting her concern about the roots of the two nice oaks at the crossing. J. Sickles said there is nice topography for a bridge at the chosen site, noting that he can stay in the middle of the two trees to avoid damaging either root system.

M. Giguere said he agreed that the bridge location makes sense and asked how traffic could be steered to the new trail. J. Sickles said the old trail will be blocked with logs, border logs will be added and there will be no harm if the old trail is occasionally used, noting that it will flood at times.

Paul Funch said the Trails Committee would prefer that the old trail be blocked off.

B. Easom said he likes the bridge site but shares concern about the tree roots.

O. Lathrop asked that Mr. Sickles please “brush in” the old trail, noting that he has not seen tree damage on other trails.

P. Morrison asked if there would be new trail arrow markers installed. P. Funch said yes.

J. Smigelski asked if the bridge would be anchored. J. Sickles said yes, noting that this is shown on another plan and he will meet with the Building Inspector, Ed Cataldo.

P. Funch noted that the bridge will be for pedestrians only; it will not be suitable for horses.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by E. McHugh, it was

VOTED: to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (#3) for the proposed bridge and trail work for the Eagle Scout project on Parcel 250-95 and with the following conditions:

1. The old trail shall be “brushed in” to discourage future use.
2. New trail markers shall be added.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

7:45 p.m. – Public Hearing: RDA , Removal of Trees, 300 Main St. (D. Canney)

Applicant: Dave Canney II

Owner: Jay Decoteau

Dave Canney presented his proposal to remove unhealthy trees from the vegetated area around the medical office building at 300 Main Street.

M. Giguere asked what they proposed to do about the bittersweet. D. Canney said that 75% of the trees are impacted by bittersweet. He said his client would like to wait until fall to cut/treat the bittersweet.

M. Giguere said the area is not mapped out as wet by DEP. He said the invasives will be around for awhile, noting that this is not a one-time project and they will need to re-apply with the Commission for herbicide use.

B. Easom said he would like them to try to save other trees. D. Canney said his client wants to keep it wooded.

B. Easom said he presumes there will be work within the buffer zone.

O. Lathrop said the material needed to be removed without going through the detention basin. D. Canney said he will work toward the west where there are less vines.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere and seconded by E. McHugh, it was

Voted to: to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (#3) to allow the removal of trees at 300 Main St. with the following conditions:

- 1) There shall be no work in the detention basin.
- 2) Viable trees shall be preserved and only marked trees removed.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

8:00 p.m. – Public Hearing, cont'd: NOI, Addition, 110 Boston Rd., Groton Community School, MassDEP#169-1154

Applicant: Bob Collins and Stan Dillis for Groton Community School

Mr. Dillis presented a revised plan with the following changes:

- 1) The recycling bin has been relocated to the NE corner.
- 2) Boulders added around the rain garden for protection.
- 3) The addition will contain roof runoff with a recharge system with gutters.

E. McHugh asked how soggy soil would handle the permeable pavers. S. Dillis said that the water table is relatively constant at a depth of 18". He said that 12" substrate with crushed stone, gravel and pavers will be used. No pipes are proposed.

M. Giguere asked about storm events. S. Dillis said the vast wetlands will absorb almost any storm.

J. Smigelski asked whether the use of sand could be restricted. S. Dillis said it could, noting that is part of the operation and maintenance plan, which requires vacuuming.

Mr. Collins said that if there are any questions or issues, he would be happy to come back again.

B. Easom said that he wants it on record that he is opposed.

P. Morrison said he sees this as an improvement over the existing and previously approved plans.

O. Lathrop said he thinks they have done everything they reasonably can do.

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

VOTED: to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

8:10 PM – Public Hearing, cont'd: NOI, Parking Lot, 2-8 Hollis St. (2-8 Hollis Street LLC),
Mass DEP #169-1153

T. Tada reported that MassDEP issued a file number with no comments.

E. McHugh asked if there was a proposal to protect the rain garden and was told there was not.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by E. McHugh, it was

VOTED: to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

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

VOTED: to adjourn the open meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:20 PM. The vote was unanimous via roll call vote (6-0).

Notes taken by Takashi Tada
Conservation Administrator

Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:

1. OOC, 164 Main Street, MassDEP #169-1152
2. Lost Lake/Knops Pond Weed Management, 2016 Report & 2017 Proposal
3. RDA, Parcel 250-95, Eagle Project, J. Sickles
4. RDA, 300 Main Street
5. NOI, 110 Boston Road, Groton Community School, MassDEP #169-1154
6. NOI, 2-8 Hollis Street, MassDEP #169-1153

Approved: 12/12/2017