

<http://townofgroton.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?PortalId=0&EntryId=23007>**GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor
Members Present: Larry Hurley (Clerk), Olin Lathrop, Bruce Easom, Marshall Giguere
Members Absent: John Smigelski (Chair), Peter Morrison (Vice Chair), Eileen McHugh
Others Present: Nikolis Gualco (Conservation Administrator)

7:00 p.m. – The meeting was called to order by Clerk L. Hurley.

The Commission began with General Business, and reviewed a drafted Order of Conditions for 21 Moose Trail (MassDEP#169-1167).

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom it was:

VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions under the MA Wetlands Protection Act for 21 Moose Trail, MassDEP#169-1167. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

At this time the Commission moved to Appointments and Hearings and opened the public hearing for 419 Old Ayer Road.

7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing: NOI, 419 Old Ayer Road for the installation of a septic system and well, MassDEP# 169-1167.

Owner/Applicant: Patricia Madigan (not in attendance).

Representative: Atty. Robert Collins (not in attendance); Stan Dillis, Ducharme & Dillis Civil Design Group (not in attendance).

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

VOTED: to continue the public hearing as requested by the applicant until January 9th, 2017.
The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

At this time, the Commission received a Presentation by the Nashua River Watershed Association's Al Futterman on the status of the Wild & Scenic River Study of the Nashua and Squannacook rivers. A. Futterman requested feedback on excerpts from the study draft, which he stated would inform the final report. B. Easom specifically asked about the dam at Rivercourt, which is owned by the Town and is currently obsolete. A. Futterman responded that comments like that would be incorporated into the report and, if included, would qualify for funding.

Following the presentation, the Commission returned to General Business, and continued reviewing a drafted Order of Conditions for 21 Moose Trail (MassDEP#169-1167).

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom it was:

VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions under the Groton Wetlands Bylaw for 21 Moose Trail, MassDEP#169-1167. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission then continued to General Business, Meeting Minutes.

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

VOTED: to approve and release the minutes as drafted for February 28th, 2017. The vote passed with three in favor and one (O. Lathrop) abstaining.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was

VOTED: to approve and release the minutes as drafted for November 14th, 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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

VOTED: to approve and release the minutes as drafted for November 28th, 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was

VOTED: to approve and release the minutes as amended for December 12th, 2017. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission then continued with General Business, Correspondences and reviewed an email from Peter Cunningham of the Senior Building Committee about a possible secondary gated emergency access to Spencer Circle from the Senior Center via the Balcolm Estates Conservation Area (a.k.a. the old Brookline and Milford rail line). O. Lathrop showed several photos taken over the past weekend to provide context. A discussion ensued on the feasibility of using the Balcolm Estates CA as well as neighboring parcels as a means of providing secondary access to the Senior Center. The Commission concluded by suggesting that the Senior Building Committee explore the possibility of the Town securing an easement with the property owners of the adjacent shared driveway. This way Spencer Circle could be accessed via the shared driveway and connect to the wider trail (and former rail bed) of the Balcolm Estates CA and ultimately connect to the Senior Center.

The Commission then continued with General Business, Correspondence and reviewed an email from Beth Faxon, the new Per Diem Minute Taker for the Conservation Commission requesting permission to record Commission meetings that she takes minute notes at. The Commission discussed this for several minutes and concluded that the discussion would be tabled until January 9th, 2018 when more members of the Board would be present.

Continuing with General Business, Correspondence, N. Gualco shared that he sent two letters by certified mail to Robert Taisey regarding the Marion Stoddart Riverwalk proposal but had not received any feedback or reply.

The Commission then moved to discuss Land Management issues:

N. Gualco shared that he scheduled a tentative site walk at Surrenden Farm West for January 16th, 2018 with Pat Huckery and Jennifer Jones of MassWildlife to discuss the terms of forest cutting contract.

O. Lathrop commented that he is still working on drafting new language for the Farmers and Mechanics Conservation Area Stewardship Management Plan specific to the Invasive Committee's proposal of incorporating a Chestnut nursery.

N. Gualco then shared that he had a conversation with a representative from EnviroSigns regarding the construction of a new Conservation Sign for the Fitz & Helen Walker Conservation Area. He shared that it may be economically beneficial to order up to seven complete signs to make the most of the materials costs. The Commission discussed this for several minutes and recommended N. Gualco follow-up with EnviroSigns about the most cost effective means of procuring signs.

The Commission then continued with General Business and heard an update by N. Gualco on Land Acquisition issues concerning "0 West Main Street." The Park Commission agreed to meet in Executive Session at the January 9th, 2018 Commission meeting.

The Commission then moved on to General Business, Invoices:

Upon a motion O. Lathrop, seconded by M. Giguere, it was

VOTED: to pay \$18.06 to Paul Funch to reimburse the gas required to mow and maintain trails on conservation land. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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

VOTED: to pay \$6,713.00 to Michael Barry of Bay State Forestry Service for the treatment of invasive plants (cutting and foliar herbicide application) at Surrenden Farms West. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission continued with General Business and moved to Other Discussions.

N. Gualco provided an update on the Open Space & Recreation Plan 2018 update. He shared a draft of a scope of work he will use to solicit estimates from three vendors. The Commission discussed the details of the OSRP for several minutes.

N. Gualco then provided a draft of the CPA Application. The Commission discussed the draft for several minutes.

Moving to Committee Updates, B. Easom shared an update of the status of the re-development of the old GELD garage, which included the possibility of a limited project wetland crossing providing access behind Prescott School to the site off Station Ave.

B. Easom then shared an update of the status of the Gibbet Hill trail bridge and indicated that he needs to meet with N. Gualco soon to take care of several administrative requirements.

9:27 p.m. – O. Lathrop made a motion (seconded by B. Easom) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Exhibits on file at Conservation Commission Office:

- 1. OOC, 21 Moose Trail, MassDEP#169-1167**
- 2. NOI, 419 Old Ayer Road, MassDEP#169-1168**
- 3. NRWA Wild & Scenic Study Presentation**

Approved: January 9th, 2018.