



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-1106



Groton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 26, 2018
Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Present: Larry Hurley, Olin Lathrop, Bruce Easom, John Smigelski, Marshall E. Giguere.

Absent: Eileen McHugh, Peter Morrison

Others present: Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Administrator
Beth Faxon, Per Diem Minute Taker, Town of Groton

1.0 APPOINTMENTS AND HEARINGS

1.1 6:30 p.m. – Discussion: review a request for a minor site plan change, Groton Inn, MassDEP#169-1109.

Present: Dan Wolfe, David E. Ross Associates

D. Wolfe presented the proposed project change, which involves excavating the bottom of an unfinished stormwater catch basin which has accumulated mud and silt and does not function effectively. The engineer explained the plan is to remove the bottom silt and mud, and place gravel ½ to ¾ inch stone fill to a depth of 4". No elevation or volume change will occur. The high-water table in the area was noted. Photographs were shown of standing water and wetland vegetation growing in the catch basin. The engineer explained that upon completion to design, the catch basin will retain a higher year storm and retain and filter the stormwater that will potentially enter the wetland. The engineer reports that more excavation will be required, and that soils will be redeposited in the upland areas or removed.

Upon a motion made by L. Hurley, seconded by B. Easom it was;

VOTED: to accept the changes in the sketch SK-16 Infiltration basin plan as put forth by David Ross & Assoc. with the minor change. All in favor. The motion carries.

3.0 Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting*

Present: Mr. Paul Raymond appeared before the Commission and explained he is a prospective new resident of 68 Hayden Road. The property is completely within the 100' buffer of the Carmichael Swamp. The Title 5 testing of the septic has passed reported Mr. Raymond. He sought procedural permitting guidance from the Commission regarding constructing a fence around approximately half of the yard. Mr. Raymond is aware of the protected status of reptile and amphibian species and frequent wildlife crossings that occur across the roadway. M. Giguere advised Mr. Raymond file a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) application and a map illustrating the areas of work to comply with the Groton wetlands bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. Discussion ensued as to high frequency of amphibian and reptilian road fatalities in this area and the potential for mitigation per use of pavers.

2.0 GENERAL BUSINESS*

2.1 Correspondences – (none)

2.2 Order of Conditions – (none)

2.3 Certificate of Compliance

2.3.1 42 Martins Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1163.

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

VOTED: to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 42 Martins Pond Rd, MassDEP#169-1163.

YES - O. Lathrop, J. Smigelski, B. Easom, M. Giguere, ABSTAINS - L. Hurley

2.3.2 21 Moose Trail, MassDEP#169-1167.

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

VOTED: to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 21 Moose Trail, MassDEP#169-1167
All in favor. The motion carries.

2.4 Approve Meeting Minutes

2.4.1 May 22, 2018

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

VOTED: accept the meeting minutes of May 22, 2018 with the noted minor typographical errors as marked on the Conservation Administrators copy.

All in favor. The motion carries.

2.4.2 June 12, 2018

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

VOTED: to accept the drafted meeting minutes of June 12, 2018 as amended to 1.) better reflect the intensity of disdain M. Giguere expressed at the meeting with regards to the clear cutting of trees at 89 Skyfields Drive and 2.) correct the spelling of Commission member Larry Hurley's name.

All in favor. The motion carries.

2.4.3 June 16, 2018 (Special Meeting)

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

VOTED: to accept the meeting minutes of June 16, 2018 as written.

All in favor. The motion carries.

2.5 Invoices

Upon a motion made by M. Giguere, seconded by L. Hurley it was;

VOTED: to approve a reimbursement for P. Morrison in the amount of \$201.86 for repairs and maintenance of brush mower.

All in favor. The motion carries.

2.6 Land Management

2.6.1 Gratuity Brook Trail Bridge, job estimate to remove hung up tree.

Upon a motion made by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom it was;
VOTED: to approve the quote from George Brackett in the amount of \$270.00 for tree service to remove a hung-up Ash tree overhanging a foot bridge at Gratuity Rd
All in favor. The motion carries.

2.6.2 Harrison S. Ripley Forest Conservation Area

O. Lathrop illustrated a situation where a public trail is not contained entirely on public land and an abutting private landowner wishes to allow access to the Town of the trail across his property in exchange for the ability to drive his truck over a portion of Conservation land to access a cart path leading onto his private property.

B. Easom expressed his support of granting such an agreement with the inclusion of a time limit and a change of ownership clause. M. Giguere would be in favor of a Memorandum of Understanding held by both the private landowner and the Town.

Upon a motion made by O. Lathrop, seconded by B. Easom it was;
VOTED: to grant formal permission to the owners of Parcel 224-25 (Bennett Black) to access Parcel 243-17 using the cart path on the Ripley Forest CA land in exchange for permission to route a trail along the existing dirt road on property owned by B. Black. Either party may withdraw from the agreement at any time without prejudice.
All in favor. The motion carries.

O. Lathrop agreed to draft up the official agreement which N. Gualco agreed to edit and seek Town council review if necessary.

2.6.3 Surrenden Farm

N. Gualco updated the Commission regarding correspondence he received from Michael Barry, the forester responsible for implementing the cutting plan at Surrenden Farm West. Mr. Barry suggested a combination of the cutting areas of stand 1 with the cutting of Red Pine. He proposed the areas to be cut simultaneously could be ST-1, ST-2A and ST-2B with the removal of all the Red Pine per the Management recommendations set forth in the Surrenden Farm West Stewardship plan.

J. Smigelski stated he is in favor of combining the areas to be worked so as to lessen the impact of cutting equipment movement in the area. He requested formalization and documentation of the most viable method of cutting, with a presentation to the Commission. N. Gualco agreed to ask Mr. Barry to attend the next Commission meeting to discuss the harvesting management plan of Stand 1 Surrenden Farm with the Commission.

2.6.4 Conservation Area Signs

N. Gualco reported that John Ellenberger has provided a quote to the Commission for Piedmont Plastics sign materials for the Commission. Mr. Ellenberger agreed to volunteer his services to route lettering to the signs as needed. The Commission will have some excess signage material in stock for future needs.

Upon a motion made by O. Lathrop, seconded by B. Easom it was;
VOTED: to purchase the Piedmont Plastics 4x8 sign board pieces not to exceed \$800.00
All in favor. The motion carries.

2.8 Committee Updates/Announcements

M. Giguere reports that there is \$700 remaining in budget of the Great Ponds Advisory Committee.

O. Lathrop reported that the Invasive Species Committee marked Ash trees in the Petapawag Canoe Launch Conservation Area with orange tape to be monitored for the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. The Committee is considering use of an insecticide injection treatment on the affected trees, an RDA will be forthcoming.

3.0 Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting*

N. Gualco reported he received a quote for herbicide application for the Baddacook Field Shattuck Homestead and suggested obtaining more estimates for the forestry and vegetation control services. M. Giguere agreed that the first quote was reasonable. N. Gualco noted that a signed contract is needed to encumber funds designated for these services into FY19.

Upon a motion made by M. Giguere, seconded by B. Easom it was;
VOTED: to go into Executive session at 7:40 pm "To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body" not to return to regular session
Roll Call vote: YES- B. Easom, M. Giguere, L. Hurley, O. Lathrop, J. Smigelski

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Faxon
Per Diem Minute Taker, Town of Groton

Exhibits on file:

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| 1. Groton Inn Minor Site Plan change | 6. Draft GCC meeting minutes 5-22-18 |
| 2. COC - 42 Martin's Pond Road - As Built | 7. Draft GCC meeting minutes 6-12-18 |
| 3. COC - 42 Martin's Pond Road photos | 8. Draft GCC meeting minutes 6-16-18 |
| 4. COC - 42 Martin's Pond Road letter of request | 9. Job Estimate - Gratuity Brook tree removal |
| 5. COC - 21 Moose Trail letter of request | 10. Surrenden Farm plan excerpt |
| | 11. Surrenden Farm Stewardship plan |
| | 12. Conservation signs quote for materials |

Accepted on: July 24, 2018_