



**TOWN OF GROTON**  
**Conservation Commission**  
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**Groton Conservation Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Present: John Smigelski, Chair; Peter Morison; Larry Hurley; Eileen McHugh; Marshall Giguere; Bruce Easom, Clerk; Olin Lathrop, Vice Chair.

Others present: Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Administrator, Town of Groton

**6:30 p.m.** – Chairman Smigelski called the meeting to order.

**1. APPOINTMENTS AND HEARINGS\***

1.1. 6:30 p.m. – NOI (cont.), NOI, Groton Country Club (94 Lovers Lane), for replacement of approx. 930 feet of irrigation lines (S. Campbell).

N. Gualco explained that the applicant had forgotten to send out notice to abutters and, after consulting with MassDEP, recommends that the Commission continue the meeting until January 8<sup>th</sup> to allow notice to be sent and received.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by M. Giguere, it was:

VOTED: to continue the public hearing until January 8, 2019 to allow time for abutters to receive notification for the Notice of Intent. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission then moved to **GENERAL BUSINESS**, and discussed item 2.7.1 “Certificate of Compliance for 128 Main Street (Groton Inn), MassDEP#169-1109.”

John Amaral (Groton Inn owner) and Dan Wolfe (David E. Ross Associates) were both in attendance.

E. McHugh commented that on the site walk (December 8, 2018) she observed all of the outfalls behind the new restaurant needing fortification. J. Amaral commented that he would be more than happy to add more rip rap at any or all of the outfalls. E. McHugh then commented that there were three new outfalls that were not originally permitted and she asked for an explanation. D. Wolfe explained that these drainages were for the roofs of the restaurant and the inn itself. Finally, E. McHugh commented that while the siltation piled up behind the line of straw wattles provided evidence of the control’s

effectiveness, this would need to be cleaned up prior to the Commission signing off on a Certificate of Compliance (COC).

M. Giguere shared many of E. McHugh's concerns and also stated that he would like to see the grading around the outflows adjusted (smoothed out) to stabilize the areas. J. Amaral agreed to this.

B. Easom summarized that the applicant still has further stabilization work to do to bring the project to a state where the Commission can sign off a COC which will involve waiting until the spring (growing season). He continued and stated that he would be agreeable to the Conservation Administrator signing the Certificate of Occupancy if the outfalls are stabilized immediately and come spring Mr. Amaral finishes the process of securing the COC as soon as the site is stable and siltation is cleared up.

The Commission then moved to item 2.6.1 and reviewed a drafted Order of Conditions for MassDEP#169-1181, an unnumbered parcel adjacent to 419 Old Ayer Road.

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

VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act as drafted with one revision (condition #69 shall be stricken). The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by M. Giguere, it was:

VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw as drafted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission then moved to item 2.2.1 and discussed Dennis Lacombe's offer to donate parcel 251-29 (part of the Groton Woods subdivision). This parcel was determined to be financially infeasible due to the effect site conditions would have on the installation of a sewage disposal system. This parcel offers access off of Winding Way to land currently under control of the Conservation Commission.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by L. Hurley, it was:

VOTED: to accept the donation of lot B40 on Winding Way in the Groton Woods subdivision. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Commission then moved to item 2.4.1 and discussed with DPW/Highway Director Tom Delaney the status of the Fitch's Bridge repair work.

T. Delaney shared that the base of the stonewall has been stabilized and that during construction it was discovered that the original base was highly compromised. This led to the project increasing in scale (and cost) but stated confidently that the final product is an improvement both in structural integrity as well as regarding safety (since young people often climb up this wall when swimming in the area). Finally, Delaney stated that by adjusting the angle of the wall to an angle (as opposed to meeting the river's current at a 90-degree angle) the wall will be able to better accommodate the flow of water.

The Commission discussed this update for several minutes.

Finally, T. Delaney commented that he has plans to address the wall of the opposite side of the river. He noted that this work would happen next summer and he plans to file with the Commission.

The Commission then moved to item 2.1.2, Gibbet Hill CR Monitoring Report UPDATE. N. Gualco provided a copy of the letter MassDCR sent to the Webbers summarizing the steps needs to bring the property back into compliance under the CR. The Commission discussed this for a few minutes and then moved on.

The Commission then moved to item 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 and discussed both the ongoing forestry management occurring at Surrenden Farm West as well as more generally forestry needs across town. N. Gualco shared that cutting has begun at Surrenden and encouraged people to visit the site when they get time. He continued and stated that the Town's current forestry contract is set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year. He commented that the Commission may want to entertain a long-term contract in the length of 10 years (as opposed to the standard three). This would allow for more continuity and provide time to create and begin to implement management plans for the blocks of town-owned conservation lands. The Commission agreed with these ideas and agreed to review a draft Request for Proposal for a 10-year contract.

The Commission then moved to item 2.2.2 and discussed the possibility of holding a conservation restriction on a parcel of land adjacent to the Lost Lake boat launch, which is currently owned by the Groton Conservation Trust. N. Gualco explained that the Trust is considering selling this land to the neighboring landowner but wants to ensure that the site's current condition remains as is. The Commission discussed this and then agreed to hold the CR. N. Gualco stated he would contact the Trust and share the board's position.

The Commission then moved to item 2.4.2 and discussed the upcoming Conservation Summit, which will be hosted by the Commission this year. O. Lathrop offered to take the lead on planning this year's event and shared several ideas he had so far. The Commission discussed this for several minutes and then agreed to revisit this topic in the new year.

The Commission then moved to item 2.4.3 and reviewed several compliance issues with 419 Old Ayer Road, MassDEP#169-1181. The issues included erosion controls set beyond the approved limit of disturbance, excessive disturbance beyond the approved amount, and breached erosion controls. The Commission discussed this matter for several minutes and agreed that N. Gualco would write the developer a cease and desist letter. The letter would require that the developer stop work until the erosion controls are installed per the approved plan and the breached erosion controls are fixed and the sedimentation that breached the wattles is cleaned. Furthermore, the Commission will be conducting a site visit on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to inspect compliance with the conditions of the letter.

The Commission then moved to item 2.5 and heard the following committee updates: the Sargisson Beach Committee concluded closing the beach property for the winter; the CPC has approximately \$400,000 in available funds this year; the Open Space Advisory Group is ready to release the draft of the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan for public review. N. Gualco will be announcing the release at the upcoming December 17 Select Board meeting.

The Commission then reviewed meeting minutes for November 27, 2018.

Upon a motion by M. Giguere, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:

VOTED: to approve and release the drafted meeting minutes for November 27, 2018 as amended. The motion passed by a majority vote with B. Easom abstaining.

**8:07 p.m.** – Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by L. Hurley, it was

VOTED to: move to executive session (not to return to open session) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate since the chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Administrator.

**Approved on: January 8, 2019**