

TOWN OF GROTON  
Conservation Commission  
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**Groton Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

BROADCAST ON ZOOM AND THE GROTON CHANNEL  
PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER  
CONCERNING THE OPEN MEETING LAW

**Present:** Larry Hurley, Chair; Bruce Easom, Vice Chair; Eileen McHugh, Olin Lathrop, Peter Morrison, Allison Hamilton, Clerk; John Smigelski

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Administrator

6:30 PM- L. Hurley, Chair called the meeting to order.

**1. APPOINTMENTS AND HEARINGS**

6:30 PM – RDA (2021-17), Groton School (Boiler House), for the replacement of an existing subsurface fuel tank.

Applicant: Groton School: Bob Collins Engineer: Stanley Dillis

B. Collins discussed replacing an existing subsurface fuel bunker that currently serves the boiler house with an above ground, double wall, stainless steel, EPA standard tank. The purpose for the RDA is to install a 14 foot by 14 foot concrete pad constructed immediately adjacent to the boiler house. No disturbances to the wetlands are proposed and a straw wattle would be installed down gradient from site. The construction site would be confined and the new tank would be hoisted on top of the concrete pad. B. Collins stated at a later date he would present to Commission for approval of decommission of the existing tank.

Stan Dillis explained that the base map provided was outdated and if required he could receive a newer map.

B. Easom suggested without the removal of the tank that the new one should be moved out of the 100 foot buffer zone and then questioned why the proposed project is required to be completed in two processes. B. Collins explained that two stages are necessary, the existing tank acts as an active power plant and cannot be decommissioned until the new one is installed. There is also a Fuel Storage Permit that is necessary by the Select Board that would be issued to decommission the bunker under the guidance of the LSB. B. Easom requested a copy of the permit to justify the installation of the concrete slab within the 100 foot buffer zone. B. Collins did not have a copy of the permit at the time and stated he would produce one.

E. McHugh commented that there was no spillage prevention plan set in place. B. Collins stated that the new tank is double walled and is a self-contained unit. E. McHugh then questioned the preventions if someone manually overfills the tank. B. Collins stated in all his experience that has never occurred and there are safety mechanisms in place to prevent spillage. The tank is also EPA approved. S. Dillis explained that the tanks are designed to have an automatic shut off. E. McHugh requested a copy of the cut sheet.

O. Lathrop commented that there is no problem with the location for the proposed concrete slab. O. Lathrop did express concern for debris lying around the wetland and the possibility of future leaching and recommended cleaning up the area. B. Collins stated the area was previously used for parking at the hockey rink and the masonry materials have been stored there for decades. B. Collins assured he would have the issue addressed.

L. Hurley requested clarification that the new fuel tank would be converted from a six to a two. S. Dillis stated that is correct. L. Hurley explained in his experience that tanks are placed inside a concrete bunker. S. Dillis stated that the existing tank is made of concrete and is very stable and had been inspected regularly. B. Collins notified the ConCom that the existing tank holds 12,500 gallons of fuel and would be replaced with a 7,500 gallon tank. L. Hurley stated that the EPA requires new tanks to be constructed to prevent leakage unless they are punctured

B. Easom commented that there are alarms built into the tanks to provide notification of any failure.

E. McHugh requested a letter and a cut sheet from the applicant and questioned if a continuance to the next meeting would be appropriate. B. Collins stated the new fuel tank would be delivered before the next public meeting and requested a determination from the ConCom.

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

Voted to issue a Negative 3 Determination under the conditions 1. Receive a letter from the applicant's attorney ensuring that the old tank would be decommissioned.  
2. Receive a Cut sheet on the new tank.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: BE, EM, AH, PM, OL, JS, LH)**

6:40 PM – RDA (2021-18), Groton School (Sheerin House), for the replacement of an existing sewer line.

Applicant: Groton School: Bob Collins Engineer: Stanley Dillis

B. Collins discussed the Sheerin House as a faculty residence that is connected to the sewerage treatment facility that covers the entire campus. There is a 75 foot link in the sewer service line that needs to be replaced. No excavation is required. The new piece of pipe would be installed inside of the existing pipe. S. Dillis confirmed that the proposed process is very common.

E. McHugh commented that another representative from Groton School said there would be trenching involved and the pump would be installed in a different location. B. Collins clarified the location of the pump is right next to the bulk head and confirmed there would not be any excavation.

O. Lathrop asked if there would be any digging. B. Collins reiterated that the new pipe will sleeve into the existing pipe.

B. Easom commented that excavation was needed to bring out the electrical service to operate the pump. B. Collins stated that the pump is located right next to the house and that would not be necessary.

L. Hurley questioned if the pipe would be continuous from the house with the possibility of using a 90 or 45 degree angle to the manhole and then out to the street. S. Dillis was unsure of the exact plan however, that is generally the process used. B. Collins described the pipe as a flexible material.

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

Voted to issue a Negative 3 Determination under the conditions: 1. Work is done as indicated on the plan

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: EM, AH, OL, PM, JS, BE, LH)**

7:00 PM – RDA (2021-16), Campbell well site (off Shirley Road), for the treatment of invasive vegetation.

O. Lathrop spoke on behalf of the Invasive Species Committee and discussed that Knotweed has been identified on a small piece of land owned by the Water Department. There is concern that with the Knotweed being so close in proximity to the Nashua River that it would migrate downstream.

A. Hamilton questioned who was going to help with the treatment. O. Lathrop was hoping for volunteers.

B. Easom suggested driving to the area that requires treatment. O. Lathrop stated that he would need to request permission to drive a vehicle on ConCom property. The Water Department has already approved the treatment plan.

N. Gualco questioned if the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife have been contacted and notified of the work being proposed since they are the holders of the CR. O. Lathrop assured that he would contact them and request permission.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:  
Voted to issue a Negative 3 Determination under the conditions 1. That written permission is requested from both the Water Department and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: AH, OL, PM, JS, BE, EM, LH)**

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:  
Voted to grant permission to Olin Lathrop and the Invasive Species Committee to operate a vehicle on the property for the purpose of removing the Knotweed.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: OL, PM, JS, BE, EM, AM, LH)**

7:10 PM – NOI, 16 Maple Ave, for the construction of a residential addition, MassDEP#169-(pending).

Applicant: Robert Margolious

N. Gualco updated the Commission that the representative requested for a continuance to the next public meeting.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by A. Hamilton, it was:  
Voted to continue the hearing to the next public meeting on June 8, 2021.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, JS, BE, EM, AH, OL, LH)**

7:20 PM – NOI (cont.), 85 Boathouse Road, for repairs and renovations of existing retaining walls, deck, and parking area, MassDEP#169-1213.

Applicant: Mark Enright

L. Hurley stated that the Commission received the requested plans from the previous meeting. He then questioned the applicant if he plans on removing the stairs adjacent to the shed and pulling up the concrete and installing pervious pavers. M. Enright agreed to install the pervious pavers and the removal of the stairs.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was:  
Voted to close the public hearing.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, JS, BE, EM, AH, OL, LH)**

## **2. GENERAL BUSINESS\***

### General Discussions/Announcements

David Roach requested an extension of the Order of Conditions for the treatment on Massapog Lake that is due to expire on May 30, 2021. He discussed the prior treatment on the Fanwort and Milfoil and it has been very successful with

suppressing portions of the invasive in both Tyngsboro and Dunstable. The native species are rebounding. The cove is the current area of concern and was not able to be treated last fall. While working alongside with the NHSP a spot treatment of Fluridone is proposed to control the Fanwort and Milfoil while preserving the other vegetation.

A. Hamilton questioned the type of Milfoil found in the Lake. D. Roach stated Eurasian Milfoil. A. Hamilton explained that she has spent a lot of time researching ponds and the impact of Fluridone used to remove invasive species and how it also removes healthy vegetation leaving only algae.

B. Easom questioned when the Order of Conditions would expire. D. Roach stated May 30<sup>th</sup>. B. Easom suggested scheduling a single topic meeting to address the request. The Commission briefly discussed the best way to address the issue while considering the time restraint of the Order of Conditions. A. Hamilton requested additional baseline information on the pond. An agreement ensued to have a special town meeting on Friday at 10:00 A.M. to allow for the applicant to make a proper request and provide adequate public notice.

P. Morrison questioned the response from the Town of Dunstable on the matter. D. Roach stated that both Dunstable and Tyngsboro have scheduled a meeting for June 14, 2021.

N. Gualco questioned if an RDA is required for an upcoming project on Boston Road located at the Bank. The project consists of internal renovation however; they are looking to place a temporary trailer on top of a grassy area. The Commission had a brief discussion and agreed that an RDA should be filed and if the trailer is relocated on top of the asphalt no problems would be foreseen.

B. Easom requested permission to take his tractor on top of Gibbet Hill for replacing a plank on the trail bridge, installing a Sensitive fern and two signs that state that the project was a joint project with the DCR. B. Easom would like to complete this on Friday or Saturday of this week.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was:  
Voted to give B. Easom permission to take his tractor to Gibbet Hill for the purpose of maintenance on the bridge and installing the Sensitive fern and the two signs.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, JS, BE, EM, AH, OL, LH)**

### Land Management

N. Gualco updated that himself and B. Easom conducted a site walk of the Surrenden Farm and the pine stands are prospering and there are few invasive

species. O. Lathrop agreed that there is less generation of invasive species and the Multiflora Rose was not overwhelming. B. Easom was pleased with the growth of hardwood. E. McHugh questioned if Mr. Berry owes the ConCom any follow ups. N. Gualco stated yes.

N. Gualco stated that the kiosk located at Surrenden Farms is in disrepair and there are numerous bee and wasps nest that need to be removed. The Commission had a brief discussion and ensued that the plexiglass would be removed temporarily to laminate the current signs and L. Hurley would take down the nests and try to prevent them from inhibiting the kiosk again.

### Permitting

Order of Conditions, 85 Boathouse Road, MassDEP#169-1213

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was:  
Voted to issue the Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act for 85 Boathouse Road, MassDEP#169-1213.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: JS, BE, JS, PM, EM, AH, LH)**

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was:  
Voted to issue the Orders of Conditions under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw for 85 Boathouse Road, MassDEP#169-1213.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, JS, BE, EM, AH, OL, LH,)**

Extension, Squannacook River Rail Trail, MassDEP#169-1180

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was:  
Voted to extend the Order of Conditions for the period of three years for the Squannacook River Rail Trail, MassDEP#169-1180.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: OL, PM, AH, EM, JS, LH) BE- Abstain**

### Committee Updates

O. Lathrop updated the Commission that last Friday A. Hamilton's class joined him on the Priest Conservation Land where phragmites had been identified and approved for treatment. They have decided to use the area for a baseline survey, it was divided into 3 sections, and they commenced counting stems and would be performing different treatments throughout the year and tracking the results. A. Hamilton expressed that her class was excited and appreciative to be a part of invasive management for the town.

E. McHugh discussed the Stewardship Committee has been working on treating the invasive species on the Priest Conservation Land. There are two work days scheduled on June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 A.M on both days. They are requesting volunteers to help remove the Bittersweet located around the forest edge. E. McHugh recommended wearing appropriate clothing due to the grass being very long and the presence of poison ivy.

L. Hurley stated that the Sargisson Beach Committee met and decided to install the docks which are now in the water. The beach is currently closed from the herbicide treatment and will officially remain closed due to Covid restrictions. The gate will be left open. N. Gualco added that the Ranger position has been filled and orientation is scheduled for this week.

### Approve Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by O. Lathrop, it was:  
Voted to approve the meeting minutes for May 11, 2021 as amended.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: BE, EM, AH, OL, PM, JS, LH)**

### Invoices

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:  
Voted to pay the invoice from the Groton Herald for \$192.50.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, BE, JS, EM, AH, OL, LH)**

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:  
Voted to pay the invoice from the Groton Herald for \$187.00.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, JS, BE, EM, AH, OL, HL)**

Upon a motion by McHugh, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:  
Voted to reimburse B. Easom for \$172.50 for the purchase of a Sensitive fern.  
**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, JS, EM, AH, OL, LH)  
BE- Abstain**

3. **Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting\***
4. (IF REQUIRED) Executive Session pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21(6): \* “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.”

L. Hurley, Chair; declared that there was business that required the Commission move to Executive Session.

5. Adjournment

**8:17 P.M.** Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was:  
Voted to move to Executive Session and not to return to the open session for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, as the chair had declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Commission.

**The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, EM, JS, BE, AH, OL, LH)**

**Minutes Approved: June 22, 2021**