



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	Monday, 12-3-2018/7:00 p.m./West Boylston Town Offices, Rm. 120/131
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Members Present	William Chase (Chair), John Hadley (Vice-Chair), David Mercurio (Vice-Chair), Emily Eaton, Carl Haarmann, Katelyn Ivers (Associate Member) and Clerk Toby Goldstein.
Members NOT Present	
Invited Guests	N/A

Welcome – Call to Order

Time: 7:00 p.m. (Motion made by Mr. Hadley, seconded by Ms. Eaton)

Approval of Previous Minutes

November 5, 2018 Meeting

Motion Originator Mr. Mercurio

Motion Seconded Ms. Eaton

Treasurer – Financial Report

Mr. Chase looked over the latest report, dated 10/31/18.

Motion to Accept N/A

Seconded N/A

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Hadley made a motion to open the meeting. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Public Hearing, Wachusett Greenways, Request for Determination of Applicability, for the grading and topping of road, repair, installation and maintenance of culverts on Pleasant Street, at the Pleasant Street Annex, West Boylston, MA.:

(Colleen Abrams and Rich Berry represented). (Ms. Eaton read aloud the public hearing notice). (The representatives attended the November 5, 2018 meeting to informally discuss the proposed project). Ms. Abrams explained that they had been walking the work area. She noted that one culvert that they thought did not need to be restored will have to be restored. She observed that, on both sides of the trail, water flows down from the

highway. Mr. Berry continued that there was nothing he wanted to add and that they laid out what they want to do, such as slope work and placement of the culverts. Mr. Chase responded that the applicants needed this on paper, and they will call the work “ongoing maintenance” so that, if they need to do something, they just need to notify the Commission and not appear in front of them each time.

Ms. Abrams continued that there were 8 to 10 trees cut down in the West Boylston existing section of the trail, in the ditches. Mr. Berry added that five today in the ditches were cut down. Mr. Chase replied that this was fine, as it was part of normal maintenance. In response to a question from Ms. Abrams, Mr. Chase replied that they should let the Concomm know if they plan any maintenance mainly in case there are questions from residents; Ms. Abrams said that they have been in communication with Vernon Jackson of DPW, and Mr. Chase asserted that it would basically be DPW work on the trail. Ms. Abrams commented that the Town had been helpful, such as taking away of branches. Mr. Chase added that the board needs an “as-built” plan when the work is completed, and continued that, when the applicants are ready to do maintenance, they should come in and he will help them write it up and submit it. Ms. Abrams opined that there won’t be much maintenance, mainly in certain ditches, which have a lot of clay or large slopes.

With no further comments or questions, Mr. Hadley made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor. Ms. Eaton then made a motion to issue a negative determination, with restrictions as defined in the application, and a maintenance plan to follow. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor. (Mr. Chase said that the board will define the conditions).

Discussion of Briarwood Inquiry:

Vinny Vignaly had sent an email to the Commission with questions regarding Briarwood and Conservation Restriction areas where there may be work done; Mr. Hadley said there was an Open Space meeting that discussed this, and Ms. Goldstein said that Mr. Vignaly was going to attend the November Concomm meeting to discuss this (but did not). Mr. Chase said that he needed to see where these areas are located. The board instructed Ms. Goldstein to invite Mr. Vignaly to the January meeting to discuss this.

Discussion of List of Businesses in West Boylston Due for Alcohol License Renewal:

Nancy Lucier had emailed this list to the Commission, as well as the other Town boards; they were to review it and let her know if any of the businesses had issues with the Concomm. None of the members had any comments. Mr. Chase added that there may be parking issues with some of them, but the Concomm is not involved with that.

Update on Flagg RV:

Mr. Chase explained that the issue that the Town was concerned with involved number of vehicles and that Flagg RV was looking to increase their number of vehicles; he said that the Concomm was interested in only the amount of impervious material on the property and he said that they were in compliance.

Update on Trail (Lee Street):

Mr. Chase said that they will be surveying next week, and the Greater Worcester Land Trust will do that.

Update on Poison Ivy Maintenance Plan by Katelyn Ivers:

Ms. Ivers addressed several questions from the board that were brought up previously. Regarding the fencing that might be containing the goats if goatscaping was to be used, she explained that double-fencing can be installed along roads such as Beaman Street, at no extra cost. She said that, at night, shelter is provided for the goats, but they might not use it and just keep eating the plants. Ms. Ivers asked the company that provides this service what would be needed from the Town for a proposal? They should include the length of time the goats would be needed, and the number of herds needed. Ms. Ivers explained that one herd consists of four goats, that could cover ¼ acre/week, and two herds would consist of eight goats, that could cover ½ acre/week. The costs

would be \$550/week for 20 weeks, which is a full season (per herd), or \$750/week otherwise (per herd). Mr. Mercurio asked if the Town could do a couple of trial weeks? Mr. Hadley asked who would pay? Mr. Mercurio suggested that if they could do a pilot program of a couple of weeks, and that perhaps DCR could help? Other suggestions were a grant or asking CPC for help. Ms. Ivers replied that she had not come across grants for this so far. Mr. Chase asked Ms. Ivers to send a letter to John Scannell of DCR, explaining the proposed project, asking if DCR might be interested in funding, and if not if there might be any grant to apply for? He suggested that perhaps there could be matching funds from CPC. Mr. Hadley responded that it would have to be presented at Town Meeting, as he thought this seemed to fall under that. (The board continued to discuss that they thought goatscaping would be the cleanest way to remove the invasive species, and Mr. Chase explained to Ms. Ivers who Mr. Scannell was).

Ms. Ivers continued that the Town would save \$200 if two herds were used at the same time (the cost was calculated at \$4,500 based on three acres). Mr. Mercurio suggested that they first see if DCR will partner with this, and if they can do a pilot program. Mr. Hadley suggested that they try one week @ \$1,300 and see how it goes. Ms. Ivers responded that eight goats would be \$1,300, four goats \$750. Mr. Mercurio had previously suggested an approximately 30-foot strip on route 140, which had a high amount of Poison Ivy. Mr. Haarmann suggested that a pilot program would be a clear demonstration of the value of the program. Mr. Mercurio suggested that, if the pilot program works, other Towns might get involved. Mr. Chase suggested discussing with Mr. Scannell a grant, or doing this as a pilot program for the State. Mr. Chase opined that they might be able to do a pilot program for no cost. Ms. Ivers suggested that it could serve educational purposes also, if they continue to do more with the program. (The board agreed that it would be a good first step to speak with DCR first). (The board also discussed that, if DCR does not want to be involved, that they believed CPC had to be involved with public property, and they discussed Angell Brook's Poison Ivy problem, but they paid privately to have that removed. Mr. Chase added that the area that they are looking to treat is across from the DCR building so DCR will know where it is and be familiar with it).

Update on Fee Schedule Format:

(This discussion was continued from the last meeting). Mr. Chase explained that this includes rules for payment of outside consultants, such as VHB, for legal opinions for the board if they need it, and Mr. Hadley said to Ms. Eaton that the board wants the client to pay for legal or engineering counsel if they need it; Mr. Chase added that advanced notice must be given to the applicant, and explained that, if the question is outside the bounds of an NOI or RDA, the board may need legal advice as to how to proceed. The Concomm needs to identify that they might do this, and the Town Administrator will help them to word this. With no further comments or questions, Mr. Hadley made a motion to use the outline of the Planning Board, but make changes applying to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor. Mr. Hadley added that they should have Town Counsel review any changes that are made, and the Concomm fee schedule should be attached.

Update on Electronic Reminders for Filings and Recording of Documents:

(This discussion was also continued from the last meeting). Mr. Chase explained that, if the Concomm issues an RDA or Order of Conditions or Certificate of Compliance, they would put it on a calendar for one year and see if it was recorded and sent back to the board, or in the case of an RDA, if the NOI was filed or an Order of Conditions, if work commenced. Mr. Hadley suggested putting an agreement to do this on the page with the notice about legal counsel payment, mentioned above; Mr. Chase thought it was a good idea.

Minutes of November 5, 2018 Meeting:

After review of the draft minutes by the Concomm members, Mr. Mercurio made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report and/or financial approvals:

Mr. Hadley discussed the budget which was requested by the Town Administrator. Mr. Chase instructed Ms. Goldstein as to how to get the information together.

Miscellaneous Mail and/or Paperwork:

Mr. Chase and the board looked over any mail that had not been discussed before.

Next scheduled meeting – MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019

With nothing further to discuss and no further comments, Mr. Hadley made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Date submitted: _____