



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

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting

Monday, 10-1-2018/7:00 p.m./West Boylston Town Offices, Rm. 120/131

Members Present

William Chase (Chair), John Hadley (Vice-Chair), Emily Eaton, Carl Haarmann (Associate Member), Katelyn Ivers (Associate Member)) and Clerk Toby Goldstein.

Members NOT Present

David Mercurio (Vice-Chair) and Mark Meola

Invited Guests

N/A

Welcome – Call to Order

Time: 7:02 p.m. (Motion made by Mr. Hadley, seconded by Ms. Eaton)

Approval of Previous Minutes

September 17, 2018 Meeting

Motion Originator Mr. Hadley

Motion Seconded Ms. Eaton

Treasurer – Financial Report

Mr. Chase looked over the latest report, dated 9/30/18.

Motion to Accept N/A

Seconded N/A

At 7:02 pm, Mr. Hadley made a motion to open the meeting. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

St. Pierre II Limited Partnership, Request for Extension of Order of Conditions, DEP File #327-0084:

(Donna Truex represented). Ms. Truex showed the Commission members a map board depicting the Worcester Corporate Center on Century Drive. She showed them some areas of new work, such as the Girl Scouts' parcel where they have just broken ground, renovation of the former Hanover Insurance building for a psychiatric facility, and Moody has been in to do their expansion. She said that there is a last 600 feet of road to be built, she pointed out a 24-acre lot that they are trying to keep fully permitted, and the State will help with marketing as will realtors. She noted that there are a few interested parties and asserted that it would help for the road to be built and finalized. Ms. Truex explained that they had been before the Concomm several times, such as, in 2008, there

was a comprehensive reworking of all detention basins, and VHB reviewed this work. Mr. Chase suggested that the move of the Pawtucket Red Sox to Worcester would bring in a lot of activity to this area. Ms. Truex agreed, and asked for a three-year extension to the Order of Conditions. With no further comments or questions, Mr. Hadley made a motion to issue the three-year extension (Mr. Chase instructed Ms. Goldstein to date it three years from the expiration date, which will be 10/31/18). Mr. Chase seconded. All in favor.

Update on Flagg RV:

Mr. Hadley informed the board that Flagg would meet with Planning Board on October 10; Mr. Chase instructed Ms. Goldstein that they will discuss this at the next meeting, November 5.

Discussion of Mr. Chase's Plan for Trails:

(This subject was continued from the 9/17 meeting). Mr. Chase explained his goals of the project; he was referring to Conservation land that was purchased a while back, and he will meet with Greater Worcester Land Trust and wants to define the borders and come up with a rough design of what may be a three-mile trail, with 20 stations and features such as tree identification. He did not believe that it would be very costly, noting that they will have a lot of volunteers. Mr. Hadley noted that it was discussed at the Open Space meeting. In response to a question from Mr. Haarmann, Mr. Chase explained that the area would run from the backside of Lee Street up to Holy Cross College, and that it is not flat. In response to another question from Mr. Haarmann, the ground is stone, all ledge, and there are some pockets of wetland but not much so it is not soggy. (Mr. Chase explained to Mr. Haarmann about the Maple Street Conservation Land). Mr. Chase added that they want people to come to that area, for example to fish. Ms. Ivers suggested that they could do a low-key economic development initiative, which would be good for the Town. Mr. Chase added that other towns are interested also, such as Holden, where West Boylston and Holden both own some land. Mr. Hadley suggested that, on the "island" where Bob's Hotdog food truck was located, that they put food trucks there. He thought that they could develop the island, put parking there, and three food trucks, and suggested that people could go from the Rail Trail to eat at the island. Mr. Chase responded that they want a similar type of thing on the other side of Town, and opined that it would be a great use of the land. He said that he might have preliminaries or drawings by the November 5 meeting. (He had handed out photocopies of possible station layouts for the trail).

Update on Polson Ivy Maintenance Plan by Katelyn Ivers:

(This was a continuation of the discussion from the previous Concomm meetings). Ms. Ivers explained to the board that she did a lot of research and spoke to Vernon Jackson of DPW and the current vendor the Town uses to spray herbicide. (She handed out a presentation to the board members). She said that chemical elimination is needed, but foliar application can be used, and she said that if the Town wants to do any application on a right-of-way, they must submit a VMP (Vegetation Management Plan). Ms. Ivers told the board that the DCR told her that the Department of Agriculture is the body that she needed to contact about pesticide application; Mr. Clayton is the contact person. (She then showed the board the vegetation management plan for the town of Holden, MA, which Clayton gave her as an example). Ms. Ivers explained that they need to map out sensitive areas; she handed them links to use for the State's policies, and reiterated that the Town must obtain a VMP if rights-of-way are involved – there is a portion of the State CMR that refers to this; basically it is a five-year plan, and explains how DPW would implement low-impact methods, such as super-diluted foliar application, soap and vinegar, mechanical methods, and use of goats to eat the plants (she said that a company specializes in this).

(The board then discussed with Ms. Ivers the idea of using goats). She told the board members that there are studies of how much the goats will eat. (Mr. Chase and Mr. Hadley described this method, and Ms. Eaton noted that she knew people that did this). Ms. Ivers said that she spoke with the Town's current vendor, Greenhaven, whom they did not contact yet this year. He said that they do not work with VMP's, but had the name of someone who does "goatscaping." In response to a question from Mr. Haarmann, Ms. Ivers replied that the use of the goats costs \$850 per week, and is cheaper before May 1 and after September 30; she did not know how much they would clear in a week. Mr. Haarmann suggested that they should find out comparative costs of goats versus pesticide application.

In response to a question from Mr. Hadley, Mr. Chase and Ms. Ivers replied that the chemicals need to be applied every year. (The Concomm members liked the idea of using the goats, and Mr. Chase suggested that they could use the goats, then put down pesticides when the grass is low). Ms. Ivers suggested that mechanical pulling should be used also because of the length of the poison ivy roots. (She told Mr. Chase that DCR directed her to links online for the information).

Mr. Chase then discussed work he has been doing in Florida, which involves control of the use of phosphorus, with Ms. Ivers, explaining that one can only buy fertilizer certain months and use it in certain months. He opined that the Town area needs a law like that. He mentioned that someone in Barnstable is working on a State law controlling types of fertilizers because of phosphorus.

Ms. Ivers opined that, because the Town has the watershed, that they need a VMP or they will not be able to do anything at all and will be overrun with Poison Ivy. Mr. Chase responded that he is against the phosphorus, and that they will kill fish with the pesticides, so they need some middle ground. Ms. Ivers responded that it is recommended to use sheet mulch to cover the pesticide to compensate for the diluted pesticide, and cardboard. Mr. Chase said that there could be a problem at the reservoir, but it could be used at the rivers. He asserted that what is used here could be used statewide, noting that most of the Town's land is owned by DCR so the State probably would get involved anyway. He suggested some possible contacts to her about this, such as Charles River Associates, who do statewide work and would have a lot of information for her, and Mr. Chase offered to get some names and contact numbers for her.

Ms. Ivers told the board that Mr. Clayton said he would help with the next steps; he told her to submit the VMP, and the Department will review it and comment, then it can be revised and they will go through it again. Mr. Chase suggested that Ms. Ivers do that and also speak with Mr. Jackson, and noted that he is aware of the complaints that there have been about it. Ms. Ivers then asked if there was any mechanical way to deal with the Poison Ivy? Mr. Chase replied that spraying was the only method. Ms. Ivers suggested that this could be part of the VMP, and she would look at other methods in case the goats do not work out. Mr. Chase mentioned sprays that eliminate the plants' oxygen. Mr. Haarmann suggested wood chips and black plastic covering. Mr. Chase responded that the vegetation has to be killed. He and Ms. Ivers agreed that some kind of barrier to encapsulate it would help for it to not spread. Mr. Chase explained to Mr. Haarmann that, if the vegetation above ground can be cut off, the roots will die. Ms. Ivers suggested use of soap and vinegar on the roots after cutting down the vegetation, but agreed with Mr. Chase that there is a time limit for doing that. Mr. Haarmann suggested that a group such as the Eagle Scouts could pull the roots out (Mr. Chase suggested some other work that the Scouts could do also).

Member Status of Conservation Commission:

This was discussed at the September 17 meeting; as Mark Meola lived in another town, it was decided to remove him as a Full Member and the board would like to elevate Carl Haarmann from Associate Member to Full Member. The board discussed suggestions for the open Associate Member position, who could finish out Mr. Haarmann's term also. Ms. Goldstein will notify Nancy Lucier of the change for Mr. Meola, the recommended change for Mr. Haarmann and the vacancy to be created.

Minutes of September 17, 2018 meeting:

After review of the draft minutes by the Concomm members, Mr. Hadley made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Discussion of Electronic Reminders to File and Record:

Mr. Chase discussed an idea that he had to help remedy the need for unnecessary filings for Certificates of Compliance due to Orders of Conditions not being brought to the Registry of Deeds and the Commission not receiving notification; this also happens because Requests for Certificates of Compliance are not filed to close out Orders of Conditions. Going forward now, he wanted to have a system online where letters would be sent at the

end of the year, reminding the applicants that they needed to file for Certificates of Compliance for their Orders of Conditions and for extensions of their Orders of Conditions, rather than doing it in emergency situations.

Discussion of Revolving Fund Information:

The board agreed to discuss this at the November 5 meeting.

Treasurer's Report and/or financial approvals:

Mr. Chase reviewed the Accounting Department's latest financial report for Concomm, dated 9/30/18.

Miscellaneous Mail and/or Paperwork:

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

Next scheduled meeting – NOVEMBER 5, 2018

With nothing further to discuss and no further comments, Mr. Hadley made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by: _____

Tobey L. Goldstein

Reviewed by: _____

Date submitted: _____

11/5/18