



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

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	Monday, 9-17-2018/7:00 p.m./West Boylston Town Offices, Rm. 120/131
Members Present	William Chase (Chair – left at 7:20), John Hadley (Vice-Chair), David Mercurio (Vice-Chair), Emily Eaton, Carl Haarmann (Associate Member), Katelyn Ivers (Associate Member)) and Clerk Toby Goldstein.
Members NOT Present	Mark Meola
Invited Guests	N/A

Welcome – Call to Order

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

Approval of Previous Minutes

August 6, 2018 Meeting

Motion Originator Ms. Eaton

Motion Seconded Mr. Mercurio

Treasurer – Financial Report

Mr. Hadley looked over the latest report, dated 7/31/18, after Mr. Chase left; Mr. Chase looked it over before the meeting.

Motion to Accept N/A

Seconded N/A

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

Continued Public Hearing, John E. Vangos, 412 Worcester Street, Request for Determination of Applicability:

(Mr. Chase read aloud the public hearing posting). (Mr. Vangos represented). This public hearing was continued from the August 6 meeting, as Mr. Vangos did not appear at that meeting. Mr. Chase explained that Mr. Vangos was supposed to clean up debris on the property from the previous owner; the property was foreclosed, the bank sold it, and Mr. Vangos bought the property. Mr. Vangos explained that the previous owner did not do maintenance on his property, and debris was building up behind the fence on the property; the previous owner

was evicted and the property was landscaped and put on the market. Mr. Vangos explained that the realtor found out there had been an ongoing issue with depositing of debris there, and he said that he cleaned it up and everything was taken out of there. Mr. Chase added that this had been an ongoing issue with the Commission for about 10 to 12 years. Mr. Vangos explained that he knew nothing about it previously and that the buyer's agent found it. Mr. Chase added that he was at the property about five or six times and inspected it, and other than needing to put in some loam, the property looked fine after Mr. Vangos cleaned it; but, Mr. Chase told Mr. Vangos that the board had to take a vote on that. Mr. Vangos continued that, at closing, the buyer wanted to hold back \$3,000.00. Mr. Vangos said that he continued to clean the property; he said that the buyer's attorney said that, if the Concomm was satisfied with the cleanup, then they would be alright with it. (Mr. Vangos added that he was dealing with the attorney, not the buyer or realtor anymore). He noted that no digging was going to take place. Mr. Vangos responded to a question from Mr. Mercurio that the property was already sold. Mr. Mercurio opined that the property looked good to him. Mr. Vangos opined that the property was a mess after years of dumping.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Hadley made a motion to close the public hearing. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor. Next, Mr. Hadley made a motion to issue a negative determination. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor. Mr. Chase noted that the work had already been completed and inspected. Mr. Chase informed Mr. Vangos that notification will be sent to the attorney so that Mr. Vangos can receive the money that was held back. (Mr. Chase left the meeting at 7:20, due to a prior commitment).

Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance, DEP File #327-0044, Goodale Street Lot 7 (325 Goodale St.):

Mr. Hadley, who was in charge of the meeting after Mr. Chase left, explained that the owner of this property had installed a septic system previously and appeared before the Board of Health, but not the Conservation Commission, and therefore they still had a cloud on title; a partial Certificate of Compliance needed to be issued, as the work was all completed, but the homes in the above neighborhood each were on ANR lots and were not part of the same subdivision, therefore one Certificate of Compliance over the entire DEP file number could not be issued. With no further questions or comments, Mr. Mercurio made a motion to approve the Partial Certificate of Compliance for Goodale Street, Lot 7 (325 Goodale St.). Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor.

Update on Poison Ivy Maintenance Plan by Katelyn Ivers:

Ms. Ivers explained that she reached out to Vinny Vignaly of DCR, Open Space Committee and Planning Board, and he opined that this would be a very good project (development of a poison ivy maintenance plan for the Town) for the Town and the Town Administrator was also part of the conversation. They opined that it would especially be good for the Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission. She said that she would be happy to take on most of the work involved. In response to a question from Mr. Hadley about funding of the project, Ms. Ivers replied that she had not yet done a cost analysis on the proposed project; she thought grants were available, and she suggested that she could look at other towns to see how their maintenance plans are funded. Mr. Hadley responded to Ms. Eaton, that DCR does some maintenance and asserted that it is supposed to do so, and asked Ms. Ivers to find out what DCR is responsible for regarding this matter. Ms. Ivers explained that there is a mandate that they follow, but additional maintenance is usually denied. In response to a question from Ms. Eaton, Mrs. Ivers replied that Foliar (sp?) is approved for use, as it is more natural and concentrated, and she said that she could look into pricing for that because even if it is more expensive, she asserted that less would be needed. It was discussed that DPW would implement a vegetation maintenance plan, and Mr. Hadley asked Ms. Ivers to find out what DCR and DPW each would do for this. Mr. Mercurio suggested that maybe Vernon Jackson, head of DPW, would give input on this. Mr. Hadley also suggested to Ms. Ivers that the Town also has two grant writers. The board members then discussed if someone had to be licensed or certified to use the herbicide. Ms. Ivers said that she would look into certification and licensing requirements, and told Mr. Hadley that she would have as much information as possible for the October 1 meeting. She also asserted that much of this was not just the cost so much as application and sustainable practices. Mr. Hadley also asked Ms. Ivers to ask the Town Administrator, Anita Scheipers, about funding sources, the grant writers, applications, DPW, and licensing. In response to a question from Ms. Ivers regarding how DPW applies the herbicides and insecticides now if they are not licensed (Mr. Hadley opined that they were not licensed), he said that DPW contracts the work out to others. Mr. Mercurio reiterated these ideas, and also wanted her to find out about how much money the various vendors

would charge. Mr. Hadley thought that the Town might have a list of outside vendors that they prefer. Ms. Ivers suggested that the use of outside vendors would eliminate the need for the Town employees to be licensed. The board members thought that it might depend on how much money it will cost whether or not there needs to be an RFP, and how much land will be treated, and Ms. Eaton suggested that perhaps Mr. Jackson might know.

Member Status of Conservation Commission:

Ms. Goldstein discussed an e-mail from Nancy Lucier, where she informed the Commission that Allen Phillips, an Associate Member, moved from West Boylston, and therefore would not be a board member. She also asked about Mark Meola, a full board member, as she heard that he did not live in West Boylston anymore. Ms. Goldstein had informed Mr. Chase of this, and he said that Mr. Meola had a home in another town, but was still a West Boylston resident. Mr. Hadley suggested that this be on the agenda for the October 1 meeting, and they can decide as a board with the Chair on Mr. Meola's membership status. (Ms. Eaton and Mr. Mercurio opined that a member should attend a certain amount of meetings, referring specifically to Mr. Meola).

Minutes of August 6, 2018 meeting:

After review of the draft minutes by the Commission members prior to the meeting, Ms. Eaton made a motion to approve the August 6, 2018 minutes as submitted. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor.

Miscellaneous Mail and/or Paperwork:

Mr. Chase looked through mail not previously seen before he left; Mr. Hadley looked through that material now. The following items were discussed:

1. Century Drive, DEP File #327-0084: The property owners, the St. Pierre family, filed for an extension of the Order of Conditions, due to expire on 10/31/18. This will be on the agenda for the October 1 meeting.
2. Flagg RV: Mr. Hadley explained that there are Planning Board issues regarding this, and it should also be on the October 1 agenda for discussion. (The Commission received the Site Plan Review paperwork from Planning Board).

Other Business:

Informal Discussion with John Farnsworth Regarding Baldarelli, 301 Sterling Street Work:

Mr. Farnsworth asked to appear after agenda was already posted, just to informally provide information regarding the above. He informed the Commission that the culverts will probably be ready to deliver in two weeks. He said that it was approved for them to go onto DCR property and remove beavers, but he asserted that it would lower the water. He said that Board of Health issued a 10-day permit to them to trap beavers. Mr. Farnsworth also said that he met with Fish and Wildlife, and after inspecting the trolley line area, they extended their permit by 30 days. He also said that they (he and Mr. Baldarelli) looked at the beaver dam with the DCR biologist and DCR sent out information regarding handling of the dam. Mr. Farnsworth explained that he did not want to upset the water flow there; he said that there was never any intention to upset the brook flow.

In response to a question from Mr. Mercurio, Mr. Farnsworth pointed out the dam on a photo, showing it in real time, close up; Ms. Ivers noted that it was from GIS. In response to a question from Mr. Mercurio, Mr. Farnsworth replied that the dam will not bother the culverts. Mr. Farnsworth asked Mr. Hadley what the Commission wants from him so that they can go ahead with the work? Both Mr. Hadley and Mr. Mercurio opined that, as Mr. Baldarelli went to Board of Health and DCR, the Concomm did not need him to do more, and that the Commission had approved the work in the past. In response to a question from Mr. Farnsworth, Mr. Hadley replied that they should send Concomm a memo when they will begin work. Mr. Farnsworth replied to Ms. Eaton that the project could take five days from start to finish, depending on if the water level goes down; Mr. Mercurio opined that, when the culverts are in, that will help.

Next scheduled meeting:

Mr. Hadley announced that the next scheduled meeting is – **MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.**

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Eaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by: Toby A. Haldstein

Reviewed by: JMM

Date submitted: 9/12/18