

HOLDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2021
Town Hall

Members Present: Kenneth Strom, David Nyman, Michael Scott, Heather Parry, Luke Boucher, Elizabeth Parent, Cathy Doherty

Others Present: Glenda Williamson, Conservation Agent; Sara Flagg, Recording Secretary; Tom Larson, Martelli Construction; Clea Blair, Greenwood Estates; Rick Sampson, 179 Doyle Road; Jim Dunn, Ag. Committee.

M Scott opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

REQUEST FOR FINAL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (COC)

179 Doyle Road. DEP File #: 183-0478. Assessing Map 227, Parcel 5. The construction of a barn within the 100-foot buffer of a resource area. Rick and Kelly Sampson, owners (*continued from Oct. 6*).

G Williamson explained that there was not a lot of information in the file and the Order was issued back in July of 2006. Rick Sampson explained that a barn had been constructed and the soil stockpile needed to be moved outside of the no-disturb zone and that a rock wall was added for demarcation of the no-disturb zone and along the gravel parking area. R. Sampson stated that back in 2006, the Commission had determined that there was no need to plant the red maples as shown on the original plan because of the wet conditions in that area. The existing maples in the resource area would naturally seed and become established over time. The BVW is stable and appears to have recovered.

Motion C Doherty, seconded by K Strom to ISSUE A FINAL COC FOR 179 DOYLE ROAD. Approved by a vote 7-0

GREENWOOD ESTATES

Tom Larson, Martelli Construction, shared an update on the stabilization for the winter. Graves Engineering provided a stabilization plan and pictures were shared with G Williamson. G Williamson shared photos of the site. T Larson explained that there are three main drainage areas which feed into the drainage system and the basins and that seeding can not be done at this time, this stabilization method is the best solution to filter the runoff.. K Strom asked if the sumps are clear. T Larson answered that the sumps are going to be cleared prior to winter.

T Larson explained that additional straw wattles have been installed and that the silt fencing would be stapled up tomorrow.

G Williamson shared photos of the upper slope above Basin 3-1 that was recently seeded. No stumps have been pulled from the area that was cleared. D Nyman asked what grass seed mix was used. T Larson said it was a contractor's seed mix but was not able to identify the species. Clea Blair said it was a spray mix of winter rye. D Nyman shared his concern

that coverage is maybe 20-30%, the seed is not fully rooted and there are bare areas so it is imperative that water be kept off the area above basins 3-1 and 3-3. T Larson replied that the dirt was moved to the area of 2-3 and that caused a blockage. The outflows were not in at that time to allow the water to flow. This has been fixed now and the water is able to be controlled. D Nyman shared a hypothetical situation for a 2" rainfall event. T Larson replied that in that case he would do an inspection if the forecast anticipated a large amount of rain. He stated that they are very cautious after the accident that happened and would not want anything like that to happen again. He also feels confident that everything is working as intended and the basins are emptied regularly.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Jim Dunn presented on the Holden Chapter 61 Parcel Prioritization Results. This documents the work that has been done and how it may be used in the future. He explained that historically Holden has never exercised the right-of-first refusal option. A process to review these parcels was established by the Agricultural Commission and this has resulted in five exercised right of refusals in the last 5 years. The Open Space Preservation Fund was accepted in 2015 and has an annual input of \$50,000. The Agricultural Commission has completed their evaluation and ranking of parcels under Chapter 61. It is intended to be utilized in the future and become proactive in the analysis of potential preservation parcels.

DISCUSSIONAL

51 Birchwood Drive

G Williamson shared the report from Scott Morrison, Eco-Tec, regarding an update on the replication. There is an open order that was issued Sept 17, 2020. D Nyman suggested Glenda do a follow-up site inspection to confirm the statements in the report. G. Williamson agreed.

315 Holden Street

G Williamson shared that basement water was pumped onto the neighbor's property at 17 Heritage Lane. The resident at 17 Heritage Lane has cleaned out the drainage swale along the shared property line and this has resolved the ponding issue. In addition, the residents at 315 Holden Street are pursuing a connection to the Town's drainage system to discharge sump pump water.

Brattle Street/Doyle Road

There is a question as to whether the Conservation Commission has any jurisdiction since activities were conducted strictly within the buffer zone. Rick Sampson, the original builder at 70 Doyle Road, said that he has been working to remove the water in the resident's basement. He said that he knows this site well and that the groundwater is very high in the area. 78 Doyle Rd was the property that did the work to fill their backyard and there was not a filing with the Commission. The Commission reviewed the GIS and photos that E Parent had provided. E Parent said that the resource area might be defined under BSLF and that further information would have to be gathered to make this determination. D Nyman said that if this was a storm drain that collapsed it may have created a drainage ditch and that is not naturally under the Commission's jurisdiction. G

Williamson shared that she took measurements at the time of the site visit to 78 Doyle Road and had told the owner to contact the Commission prior to doing any work in their backyard. D Nyman suggested that G Williamson gather additional information from the neighbors to determine the history of the drainage in the area. G Williamson mentioned that the surrounding properties should be reviewed to determine if an actual resource area has been impacted as a result of activities in the 100-foot buffer.

51 Greystone Drive – Permitting

G Williamson provided an update that the homeowner has all of the needed permits for the work with the exception of a variance from the DCR. The applicant's representative has not filed for a DCR variance for the well and septic at this time. The Commission had issued an Order and the decision could be made to revoke the order should the applicant not obtain a DCR variance.

NEMBA Bob Elms Trail – Foot Bridges

P Harding, G Williamson and E Parent met with NEMBA to review three foot bridges and NEMBA is seeking funding for the materials. The Commission had a discussion about establishing a Conservation Commission Fund for situations like this. M Scott and others expressed frustration that there has not been a way to release funds that are collected and held by the Commission. The funds are designated only for the administration of the MAWPA.

OSRP Update/Draft Review

The CMRCP has forwarded the draft OSRP to the State for comment. The Committee will then address the needed updates in order to finalize the plan.

Holden Town Forest – Trail Mapping/Forest Management Plan

G Williamson said a comprehensive trail map is being developed by the CMRCP and trail mapping at the Town Forest will be done on November 9, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 7, 2021. Motion by K Strom, seconded by L Boucher to APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2021 MINUTES AS REVISED. Approved by a vote 6-0 (C Doherty not present)

May 5, 2021. Motion K Strom, seconded by C Doherty to APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2021 MINUTES AS REVISED Approved by a vote 7-0

Motion by L Boucher, Seconded by C Doherty TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 3, 2021 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 9:26 PM. APPROVED BY VOTE 7-0