

**HOLDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2022
Town Hall**

Members Present: Michael Scott, David Nyman, Heather Parry, Beth Parent, Luke Boucher

Not Present: Kenneth Strom, Cathy Doherty, Sara Flagg, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Glenda Williamson, Conservation Agent

M Scott opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

PROJECT UPDATES:

GREENWOOD ESTATES

G Williamson shared an email from Tom Larson, Martelli Construction. T Larson expressed that all the detention ponds have been drawn down. The majority of the site is snow-covered. He will be placing stone around the catch basins and manhole covers once the road is clear of snow. They will begin work on the retaining wall late next week. They are still working with the EPA on a stabilization plan and will use Graves map as a reference.

MAIN STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

G Williamson updated the Commission stating that the trees have been cleared along Powers Road from the Talbots parking area to just before the residence at 45 Powers Road. She displayed photos of the work and stated that the tree company did a very good job. G Williamson stated that there will be a pre-construction meeting on March 10th with the engineer, the Town and the DOT. She stated that she would forward the meeting invite should any of the members like to attend.

M. Scott asked if there were different contractors for the DOT and Town work. G Williamson replied yes and said that she has been in contact with the residents at 45 Powers Road to keep them informed of the work. The Commission reviewed the response to the Con Comm special conditions provided by Tighe & Bond as well as the final set of construction plans provided by the engineer. The Commission discussed the need for properly installed erosion controls for work in close proximity to the resource areas. G Williamson stated that she will attend the pre-construction meeting to convey the Commission's concerns in regard to the work.

BOB ELMS TRAIL

G Williamson reported that she, Heather Parry and Chris DeMoranville with the Holden DPW went out to look at some foot bridges located in different areas of the Trout Brook property. G Williamson displayed photos of the arch bridge at Mason Park and of another foot bridge further down the same trail. She suggested that the Ball Brook foot bridge be constructed in a similar fashion, with the bottom elevation of the structure above the mean annual flood level and over the top-of-bank so that flows will not be restricted.

G Williamson provided an explanation of the requirements for limited project footbridges under the MA WPA. She will follow up with the NEMBA after the snow melts and will make another visit to the site, possibly with other Commission members, determine the top-of-bank location.

SALISBURY PINE TREE ESTATES

G Williamson stated that the proposed development project is still under review with the DPW and the Planning Board and that it has not been determined if a sidewalk will be placed along Bailey Road to the Dawson school driveway. She stated that she has received the recorded Order from the applicant.

QUINAPOXET STREET LOTS

G Williamson displayed the development plan provided by Quinn Engineering for the common driveway for the two single family homes. She stated that there will be overhead electric utility along the right side of the driveway and underground utilities after the bridge crossing. The Commission discussed the stormwater evaluation and the land disturbance permit issued by the DPW. G Williamson explained that the stormwater infrastructure is in place from the last NOI filing and that the developer is responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the system. M. Scott asked if the driveway was to be paved. G Williamson replied that it will be a gravel driveway. The Commission discussed the resource areas and the location of the 100-foot buffer.

MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

G Williamson explained that Colleen Abrams with Wachusett Greenways has added the additional erosion controls (straw bales) at the bottom of the steep slope above the resource area. She recently did an inspection to the site and showed the Commission photos of the work completed. She stated that the trees have been cut and the stumps have been grinded and moved to six large piles on the site. She explained that there will be 5 culvert replacements associated with the project and that the replacements have been approved by the Commission in an earlier filing. She will continue to monitor the construction work on the new section of the trail and on the upgrades to the existing trail.

OAK HILL SUBDIVISION

G Williamson provided an updated overview plan prepared by Waterman Design Group (WDA) for the Stormwater Management System per the request of the Commission at their February 2nd meeting. The updated overview plan provides an easier to read plan showing the location of the various stormwater components on the site. G Williamson will follow up with the HOA to determine what will be included and the formatting for the required monitoring reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Forest Stewardship Plan Update

G Williamson disturbed a draft of the proposed goals and objectives for the property for the Commission's review. She stated that part of the proposed work could include the construction of a new parking area at the main entrance and across from 120 Harris Street. She also suggested a kiosk and signage to be added at the entrance. She reported that she met with the forester, Russ Hubacz and with Tom O'Shea from the Ag Committee to walk the property on February 23rd. The purpose of the site walk was for the forester to view the current condition of the property and to provide feedback and input for the development of the stewardship plan. G

Williamson asked the Commission to review the draft goals and objectives and to provide feedback as soon as possible.

Puffer/Heininger Property

The Commission reviewed the draft Conservation Restriction (CR) that has been prepared for the property. G. Williamson explained that as written, the CR has named the White Oak Land Conservation Society (WOLCS) as the property owner and that the Commission would hold the CR. Should the Commission agree to accept the CR, there would be certain responsibilities, such as baseline and annual monitoring of the property. The Commission expressed interest in working with the WOLCS to determine who will be responsible for the baseline monitoring and annual reporting for the property. M Scott expressed concern in regard to the Commission holding the CR and would like to get more information on this for discussion at the next meeting in April.

G. Williamson stated that the applicant had submitted a permit to the DPW for a land disturbance permit and that the DPW determined that a major land disturbance permit would be required for the work. The applicant is to provide additional stormwater information and calculations to the DPW before a final approval is issued for the work. The project is currently under review by the Planning Board.

OSRP Update

G Williamson stated that the OSRP Committee met on Tuesday evening at 6 pm to discuss the revisions to the plan based on the State's recent comments. Most of the State's comments have been addressed and added to the plan. G Williamson will work with the committee over the next couple of weeks to fully address the State's comments and to finalize the plan.

Town Report

The Conservation Commission draft section of the annual Town report has been prepared and sent to the Town Managers office for inclusion in the 2021 report. The Commission had a discussion in regard to the photos to be included with the draft, agreeing that a photo of the Town Forest might be appropriate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 6, 2021 – the Commission continued the approval to their April 6th meeting date

November 3, 2021. - Motion by D Nyman, Seconded by L Boucher TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2021 MINUTES AS AMENDED. APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 5-0-0.

Motion by L BOUCHER, Seconded by D NYMAN TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 2, 2022 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:13 PM. APPROVED BY A VOTE 5-0-0.

Minutes prepared by Glenda Williamson, Conservation Agent on 3-3-2022