

PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2016



Location and Time: John Bauer Senior Center 7:00-9:04pm

7:00 PM Bylaw Discussion Summary:

- After-the-fact filing fees shall be double or triple regular fees – add wording in Section II.
- Environmental lawyers that were consulted suggested using the Board of Selectmen as an option for in-town appeal. They stated other towns have used it. Provided example wording.
- BOS is used for conflict resolution in Rutland.
- Remove Section VII : Security; no need for bond.
- The 15-foot no touch limits were discussed. Holden may have a 25-foot limit. The Commission discussed and decided to keep at 15- and 30-foot boundaries as written.
- Public hearing for draft bylaw shall be planned for January.

7:35 PM Meeting opened

Attendance:

Commissioners: Michael Voorhis, Vice Chair; Tim Luring, Commissioner; Robert Ferguson, Commissioner; Lenny Anderson, Commissioner, Donmarie Desrosiers, Commissioner; Jim Robert, Assoc. Member.

Others present: Mia McDonald, Cons. Agent; Arthur Allen, EcoTec; Bob Clark, Owner Clark & Mott Construction.

Absent: Chris Keenan, Chairman; Caitlin Carey, Commissioner; Holly Robert, Assoc. Member.

Minutes: Minutes of 11/9/16 meeting were reviewed and accepted with corrections to attendance. Motioned to accept TL, seconded by BF; all voted in favor to accept the minutes with corrections.

Bills: MM payroll and Telegram & Gazette legal ad bill; TL motioned and BF seconded; all voted in favor of paying the bills.

Correspondence:

Accounts Summary

Holiday Luncheon invitation

Forestry Plan for Treasure Valley

Downstream, newsletter from DCR

Increasing Forest Resiliency for an Uncertain Future, from UMASS Extension

Notice of National Grid's yearly operational plan for herbicide application

Enforcement Order: Lot 16 Spaulding Woods Lot (located adjacent to 927 Pleasant Street)

Bob Clark of Clark & Mott, owner, and Arthur Allen of EcoTec, Inc. were present. Mr. Allen stated that the delineation was complete, flags were rehung, and a surveyed plan was created to accurately note the resource areas; 2,300 sf of bordering vegetated wetlands were disturbed in two different areas; Area AA: timber mats were placed across resource area at the rear of the property to access the site from Spaulding Woods project; second area (AB) was clipped at the edge when the logging crew came and hung flags in the wrong places. New plantings have been proposed for the spring of 2017 and the timber mats have been removed. All organic hydric soil is in place; no soil was removed. The erosion control barriers are in place and shall remain in place. Wetland Impact Evaluation & Restoration Plan dated December 8, 2016 was submitted. Notice of Intent shall be filed for construction of driveway and house but design was not submitted.

MM had spoken with the building department in response to abutter's concern over clearing. The Commission discussed the status and concluded that the enforcement order has been resolved, but stated that no additional cutting or clearing shall occur until after order of conditions is issued from Notice of Intent application. TL made a motion and DD seconded to close the enforcement order.

Informal Discussion: Wentworth Field. The Paxton Recreation Commission is interested in constructing a volleyball court at the field. MM conducted a site visit with Chuck Putney of the Recreation Commission. Some areas of the field do not currently have adequate drainage and may cause flooding of the new court. If the proposed court lies within 100 feet of the nearby resource areas, MM shall assist in the completion of the correct permit applications.

Informal Discussion: Two trees at the Robert property across from 324 Richards Ave located adjacent to the logging road; one tree is along road within 15 feet of the stream, the second tree is approx. 75 feet from the stream; both stumps shall be left in place and wood removed; photos submitted to Commission via email. Commission discussed and agreed to allow the tree removal without a permit due to no impact to resource area and safety concerns.

Informal Discussion: Trail questions: JR wanted to ask Greater Worcester Land Trust to allow dogs on the Asnebumskit Ridge trail, current signage states no dogs due to watershed area. Also ask GWLT about the civil defense building that is falling down – is it on town property? Can it be cleaned up? Does Colin Novick have any other trails he recommends for spring cleanup? MM to contact Colin at GWLT.

Draft Bylaw Discussion Summary

The 7:00 pm discussion was summarized and reviewed.

Additional bylaw discussion:

- An ad shall be placed in the Holden Landmark for the draft bylaw public hearing. The spring cleanup shall be included in that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the White Building at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia McDonald,
Agent for the Conservation Commission

Reference Documents:

*As noted in the minutes, on file with the Paxton Conservation Commission.