

PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2016



Location and Time: John Bauer Senior Center 7:30-9:15pm

Attendance: Commissioners: Chris Keenan (Chairman,) Zach Ferguson (Secretary), Tim Luring, Holly Robert (Assoc. Member,) Jim Robert (Assoc. Member); Absent: Michael Voorhis (Vice Chair), Gerald Ryan, Others present: Mia McDonald (Cons. Agent), William Clougherty, MA DOT; Jeremy Fennell, Epsilon Assoc.; Mike Putnam, Paxton DPW; Marisa Ayvazion and Maria McDonnell, Sweatpea Rescue, Peter Gutterman, Paxton Athletic Center.

Minutes: Minutes of 3/10/16 meetings were reviewed but no vote due to lack of quorum.

Bills: MM payroll,(TL motioned and ZF seconded), all voted in favor of paying all the bill.

Informal Discussion: Culvert Relining on Route 56 by Paxton Department of Public Works. Mike Putnam, Superintendent of Paxton DPW was present to discuss the proposed project: 2 culvert locations that drain to Kettle Brook Reservoir #3 and #4; location #1 is a 30-inch metal culvert with a rotted bottom; location #2 is a 30-inch metal culvert with a rotted bottom and some of it contains a plastic HDPE pipe that was inserted to slow sinkhole appearing under the guard rail above; DPW has been awarded a grant by MassWorks to complete the work; plan to use Snap-Tite system, no curing; the alternative is to dig up the road; slurry of concrete shall be pumped into gap between old pipe and new pipe; odd angles to drive pipe in – may need to remove some saplings; sections of plastic pipe driven in from equipment in the street lowering it in; both jobs shall be completed in 3 to 5 days; waterways shall stay exactly the same; he has met with Worcester Water Department: they plan to assist with booms and erosion control barriers. No timeframe yet, but want to complete during period of low flow.

CK asked if there will be a decrease in the diameter of the culvert. Mr. Putnam stated that the new diameter will be 24-inches with flared ends and rebuilt headwalls. CK stated that this type of work is considered to be within the resource area and a Notice of Intent shall be required. MM stated that she spoke with Judy Schmitz of MA DEP who stated that the Commission could accept a sketch instead of engineered plans. CK stated that he would accept a sketch of the work. The Notice of Intent shall be on the May agenda; MM shall assist in the preparation.

Continued Notice of Intent from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division for proposed drainage system improvement project with associated culvert replacement, manhole replacement and repair within the right-of-way and within MA DOT easement at 595 and 603 Pleasant Street. Bill Clougherty of MA DOT and Jeremy Fennell of Epsilon presented changes that include work across Pleasant Street to repair existing catch basin and creation of a new outlet for the existing catch basin. CK stated that the changes fit within the existing scope and sufficient information has been provided. Mr. Clougherty stated that Paxton Athletic Center may now choose to fix their portion of the existing drain line. CK stated that a plan and notice of insignificant project change will be necessary and sufficient to include PAC portion of the work. TL motioned and ZF seconded to close the hearing. ZF motioned and TL seconded to issue an order of conditions with standard special conditions.

Other Business:

Maria McDonnell, Chair of Sweetpea Rescue and Marisa Ayvasion of Sweetpea Rebuild Committee presented proposed plan for rebuild of Sweetpea Rescue. Nitsch Engineering shall be doing the engineering and has hung 4 flags to delineate resource areas on the property. All proposed work on the plans is over 100 feet from the resource areas. CK stated that there is not Conservation Commission jurisdiction at the site due to distance to resource areas, but requested straw wattles are placed along the edge of the work to avoid sedimentation. CK also stated that the work may trigger the Paxton Stormwater Bylaw and that the roof infiltration system will need to be sealed due to the location in the animal kennel area.

Bylaw Discussion:

Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2. MM requested attendance. MM also to attend Board of Selectmen meeting at the request of the BOS on April 18. Town Election is on May 9. CK stated he would attend and host a table to try to solicit interest in new commissioners.

Trail cleanup:

The cleanup will be held April 23 at 8am at the Illig's Pond Trail behind Paxton Center School. MM has contacted the Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, GWLT, Paxton Land Trust, DPW and Recreation. Only one volunteer sign up so far. Items to bring were delegated to Commissioners.

Arbor Day Event on May 6 with Bob Wilby of Lions Club and Craig Masterman, Forester. No one is available to attend, but MM will get posters for students.

Correspondence:

Budget Statement from Town Accountant

Donation request from GWLT for 107 Asnebumskit Road via email to CK. Written request forthcoming and shall be placed on May agenda.

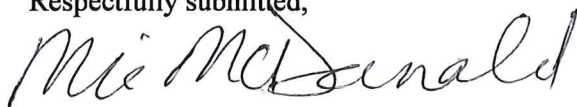
Letter from Gerald Ryan – he is moving and leaving Commission.

Definitive Subdivision Plan for Bel Arbor Subdivision. The Commissioners discussed and have no additional comments other than the same: permit shall be needed for any work within 100 feet of a resource area.

GR motioned and TL seconded to close the meeting; meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at the White Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Mia McDonald,

Agent for the Conservation Commission

Reference Documents:

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

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RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
PAXTON, MA

Town of Paxton Proposed Wetland Bylaw Summary

April 2016

The Conservation Commission has requested that the proposed bylaw is placed on the warrant and voted upon at the 2016 Town Meeting.

What does the Conservation Commission do?

The Conservation Commission is required by state law to enforce the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131, s.40) and associated regulations (310 CMR 10.0) in order to contribute to the following interests:

- protection of ground water supply
- flood control
- prevention of pollution
- protection of fisheries
- protection of public and private water supply
- storm damage prevention
- protection of land containing shellfish
- protection of wildlife habitat

Why another town bylaw?

1. Simplify the process
2. Handle locally – without intervention of state agencies
3. Paxton has its own Police & Fire – it should have its own wetland governance

What will change?

Under State Law

Fees controlled at State Level

Fee structure the same for applicants and after-the-fact filings/violations

No local enforcement ability creates undesired outcomes

No ability to fund Conservation Commission

Under Proposed Paxton Bylaw

Retain current fee structure for standard applications

Additional fee for after-the-fact filings and violations only

Locally controlled outcomes

Ability to lessen burden on Town Budget

Almost 200 towns and cities in Massachusetts have already adopted local wetland bylaws, ordinances and/or regulations to allow for local control of proposed work within wetland resource areas and their buffer zones. The Conservation Commission wishes to have the ability to control their fees, enforcement and project outcomes to suit this Town and its residents with less reliance upon and interference from state agencies.