



## **PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 8, 2015**

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**Location and Time:** John Bauer Senior Center 7:30-9:54pm

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Chris Keenan (Chairman), Michael Voorhis (Vice Chair), Gerry Ryan, Tim Laurant, Zach Ferguson (Secretary), Holly Robert (Assoc. Member), Absent: Jim Robert (Assoc. Member). Others present: Mia McDonald (Cons. Agent), Kevin Quinn, Quinn Engineering, Charles Caron, Caron Engineering, Joshua Huehls, Boy Scouts, John Farnsworth, Brian Killelea.

**Eagle Scout Project:** Josh Huehls of Paxton Boy Scouts Troop 105 proposing 60' walk way leading up to Steven's Bridge located at Illig's Pond. JH is proposing to remove brush and existing pallets 25' off trail. JH explained that Paxton Recreation Department uses the existing walkway which is in disrepair and hazardous. CK stated that there is already a permit for this work, Order of Conditions may need to be extended.

CK asked if any activities will disturb soil; JH stated no activities will disturb soil. HR: question regarding ownership of land surrounding Illig's Pond that Con Comm has deed to. Also raises concern about 25' clearing. CK clarifies 25' from resource area, not of resource area. MV made a motion to absorb full cost of project estimated to cost approximately \$670, GR seconded, all in favor.

**Minutes:** Minutes of 9/10/15 meeting were read and accepted. MV motioned and GR seconded to accept the minutes with no changes, all in favor.

**Bills:** MM payroll (MV motioned and TL seconded), Telegram & Gazette Legal Ad (MV motioned and GR seconded), all voted in favor of paying all the bills.

#### **New Business –**

**Notice of Intent – Worcester County Memorial Park –** John Farnsworth, representative for WCMP presented additional information that was requested as part of the formal submission. Also in attendance were Charles Caron of Caron Engineering and Brian Killelea, owner. HR recused herself. A check for \$125 was submitted for additional fees for work in Riverfront Area. Mr. Farnsworth explained a grass strip has been added along the road and silt sacks are still in each of the catch basins. MM requested more site specific beaver protocols. Mr. Killilea stated that a licensed professional shall be contracted to remove the beaver dams. CK asked for dewatering protocols; Mr. Killelea responded that there is no dewatering; if a hole is opened and wet, it is then closed until dry conditions.

The Commission requested the following information:

1. A timeline for the work;
2. Some form of treatment for the stormwater entering the stream between the last catch basin and the stream, silt sacks are construction measures only;
3. An area needs to be shown on the plan showing the proposed location of the loam piles/work area;

4. Aerial photos from the 1960s overlaid over current site to show any possible site disturbance near the resource areas;
5. Activities within buffer zone that create small "puddling areas" shall be removed from mitigating measures or brought to bmp standards;
6. Siltation fence is added to the haybale erosion controls;
7. Channel clearing and cleaning shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Commission;
8. A seed/plant list shall be provided for any restoration work;
9. A test plot area to document that no graves were placed within wetland resource areas;
10. Detail of service road near stream showing pervious/non-pavement surface;
11. No snow storage within 25' of resource areas;
12. Street sweepings shall be disposed of as per regulations.

CK stated that no stormwater calculations were required because the post-construction condition would be an improvement to the pre-construction condition. Due to the late submission, the Commission required one week to formulate comments and requests for additional information. HR (as a member of the public) asked if an independent evaluation of the wetland resource areas on the site would be necessary as the soil maps indicate wetland soils throughout the property. The Commission discussed and determined Charles Caron was qualified to perform the resource area evaluation, including a simplified habitat evaluation due to the removal of trees along the stream.

HR asked if fill is being brought onto the sight. Mr. Killelea responded that only clean fill is used. Mr. Farnsworth stated that there is sufficient fill on the site for the foreseeable future. CK requested a note on the plan that only suitable fill, free from invasive species, shall be used.

GR motioned and MV seconded, all in favor to continue the hearing until November 12.

**Request for Determination of Applicability – 12 Mountview Drive** Kevin Quinn of Quinn Engineering representing the owner. CK recused himself. Septic replacement at a single family home. Wetland line had been confirmed by MM. GR motioned and TL seconded to issue a negative determination with the condition that an erosion control barrier inspection shall be required before beginning the work. All voted in favor.

#### **Other Business:**

HR has selected parting gifts for Marisa Ayvasian. HR will invite Marisa to the November 12 meeting.

Trails: MM shall forward Jackie's information to Zach, whose father, Bob, is interested in mapping the trails. Couch removal: MV shall initiate another Doodle Poll to remove the couch. HR will draft a letter to DCR regarding the Commission's concerns about the upkeep at Moore State Park.

Draft Bylaw & Regulations: The Commission discussed the importance of connecting with other boards and commissions in town regarding the proposed bylaw. The Commission requested a 5 minute powerpoint presentation citing the benefits of the new bylaw: all surrounding towns already have a bylaw (map?), gives more control to town instead of state, reduce burden on town budgets, table showing any differences before and after the proposed law.

HR stated that there is an upcoming wildlife conference at the Fish & Game in Westborough and Commissioners are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 PM.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at the White Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Mia McDonald

Conservation Agent

**Reference Documents:**

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

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