



**OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
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Conservation Commission Minutes
Monday, June 26, 2023

Approved: **July 10, 2023**

Chair Alan Chaney called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Juan Amodei, Leah Basbanes, Tiffany Naughton and Al Starbird

Members absent: Marijan Andacic and Kate DeLoureiro

Possible Violation of Area near Wetlands – 60 High Street, The Pottles

The Pottles were in attendance after receiving a letter from the Commission to attend.

The Pottles explained that their visibility onto High Street has been compromised by the wetland vegetation which surrounds the vernal pool on their property. They had cut down the vegetation in order to improve their line of sight backing out of their driveway onto High Street. They hoped to do additional cutting.

Alan noted the Commissions interest in protecting the wetland area. The vegetation provides shade for wildlife and species in/near the vernal pool. The Commission wishes for the vernal pool to stay intact and uncompromised by machine equipment cutting back vegetation. The Commission prefers hand cutting vegetation verses power equipment.

A site visit to the property to provide guidance was arranged for Saturday, July 8th at 10am.

Enforcement Order Restoration Plan Review, 285 Pleasant Street – Robert Ramirez/Jeremy Ethier

Jeremy Ethier of Systematic Consulting Services, Inc. appeared on behalf of Mr. Ramirez and presented a four page restoration plan which his company had put together. The Commission reviewed copies of the plan emailed by Systematic Consulting. Jeremy's company is only producing the restoration plan and another company will be performing the actual site excavation work to restore the area.

Al asked about the large trees which were buried in 8-10" and the fill 15' past them and the original bank point. Jeremy noted the owner had pushed in fill, and that would be removed back to the trees as noted on the plan.



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Leah asked about the grading and the dry well drainage area once the fill is removed. Jeremy noted that a berm would direct the water towards the drainage area off the driveway. Leah requested a cross-section of the end of the driveway transitioning to the drainage area be added to the plan. Jeremy readily agreed to update the plan and send a new copy within a day to the Commission.

The Commission requested notification of erosion control installation for inspection prior to any excavation work to remove the fill.

Leah made a motion that the Commission accept the remediation plan with the agreed upon drain-cross section addition, and work to be completed by a professional excavation company who would contact the Commission prior to work beginning. The Commission requests all work be completed by July 24th. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion pass unanimously.

Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2023

Juan made a motion to approve the May 22nd meeting minutes. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bills/Payroll

No bills. Al made a motion to sign two payrolls. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Building Permit Release Request, 315 River Street (Ken Tully)

Alan noted there are no wetlands on the property.

Juan made a motion for the Conservation Commission to sign off on release of the building permit for 315 River Street. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Results of Site Visit, 99 High Street (Jason Gallant)

Leah met with Mr. Gallant on-site June 10th. The large stump to the right of his driveway had been dug around and Mr. Gallant was told to "*leave it alone*" allowing it



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to remain. He could cut it down low (or grind it down a bit), but not pull it and then replace the soils. All trees still standing in that area were also to be left "as is". He noted that it might take a while to finish up the cleanup work. Leah will forward her notes to the Administrator to include in a letter to be mailed to the Gallant's.

Al made a motion for the Conservation Commission to issue a follow-up letter with feedback on what was agreed to with Leah while on-site. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Reorganization of Conservation Commission Members

Al made a motion that Alan Chaney remain Chair. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Al made a motion that Leah Basbanes remain as Vice Chair. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

DCC Designee to Represent on the Community Preservation Committee

Leah made a motion that Al Starbird remain as the DCC Designated representative on the Community Preservation Committee. Tiffany 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Lower Massapog Beaver Activity

The Administrator shared that a citizen whose property abuts the lower dam area on Lake Massapog was seeking an emergency permit for beaver trapping out of season. The residents in the area had noted increased beaver activity with some damage to docks and blueberry bushes near the lower dam.

Leah noted that emergency permits must be approved by the Board of Health, after verification of a health hazard to humans. Property owners could encase their dock area to prevent damage. The DCC does not have a role in such emergency permitting.

The Administrator will refer the inquiring citizen to the Board of Health.



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Leah made a motion to adjourn at 7:27pm. Motion seconded by Tiffany. – Motion passed unanimously.

The Conservation Commission will meet next on Monday, July 10th at 6:30pm, at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Rock
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Conservation Commission