



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, September 11, 2023

Approved: **September 25, 2023**

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

Members present: Marijan Andacic, Leah Basbanes, Kate DeLoureiro, and Al Starbird

Members absent: Juan Amodei, Tiffany Naughton

Two Site Visit Findings/Recommendations

1. Woodward's Mill/Shaws Conservation Area – Pleasant & Pond Streets

Alan, Leah, Tiffany and Al had met Mr. Kimpton and the neighboring Sullivan family on-site, Saturday, September 9th for approximately one hour. A walk through and discussion of each of the areas surrounding the dam and pond yielded requests to address concerns with banking access for recreation use and hopes for beautification improvements.

Alan reviewed the discussion onsite and summarized for the Commission the highlights covered:

- The conditions of the dam and the sink holes associated with it will be addressed by a Town project that is already underway. The state had noted concerns with the dam in the recent past and the Town Engineering firm was contacted to help address them.
- Recreational bank access on the Pond St. shoreline due to overgrowth of native and invasive species.
 - Agreed to trim, but not cut down, the alder bush.
 - Once a year, probably in the springtime, a hedge-trimming to the left of the alder bush, will be performed to keep the shrub height down.
 - To the right of the alder bush, ~20-25' clearing of the bank will be attempted to be maintained as a lawn area for a fishing area.
 - To the further right of the fishing area, a review of the brush present at the time of clearing efforts, will be selectively considered for cutting.
- Cutting of a lower branch on a maple tree to improve pond view from Rte. 113/Pleasant St.
- Removal of the two short poles with a cable connecting them and additional poles bordering the parking area will be attempted if labor support and some surplus granite blocking can be secured from the Roads Department or another resource.
- Erosion washout down Pond Street:



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- Appears to have blocked a culvert across from the canoe launch parking area. Roads Department will be updated to review this further.
- Heavy rain runoff has degraded the area alongside the canoe launch steps. Alan will speak with Carl Shattuck about possibly addressing.

A joint party for the clearing work, possibly with volunteer Scouts and members of the Commission will be organized for this fall. Wetlands protection surrounding the grassy strip bank area should be overseen by the Commission.

2. Stone Arch Bridge Conservation Area – High Street

Alan and Al walked the area together for a half hour and made observations on Saturday, September 9th.

They summarized the findings for the Commission:

- Observed a few visitors with dogs off leash walking the property.
- There are some small trees growing out of the bridge side and top areas. Recommendation is to cut these down before they further degrade the bridge foundation.

A party of the Conservation Commission members will be organized for future clearing in the October timeframe.

Request for Determination of Applicability Application Review – 145 Depot St.

The Commission reviewed the application and plans submitted for the RDA. A detached garage, extended driveway and grading is planned. Leah suggested the Commission perform a site visit on September 23rd ahead of the scheduled public meeting on September 25th.

The Administrator will contact the applicant for availability and issue an Outlook appointment for all.



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Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023

Leah made a motion to approve, as submitted, the June 26th meeting minutes. Al 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bills and Payroll

No bills.

Marijan made a motion to sign payroll. Kate 2nd the motion. - Motion passed unanimously.

Parcels of Interest

The Commission had a discussion on parcels of property within the Town that may be of future interest for potential acquisition.

Leah made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm. Motion seconded by Marijan. – Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, September 25th, at 6:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall. The Administrator will be away on vacation and a member of the Commission will take minutes and record necessary permitting actions for any scheduled agenda items.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Rock
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Conservation Commission