



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
mailto:conscom@dunstable-ma.gov

Conservation Commission Minutes **Monday, July 8, 2019**

Approved: August 26, 2019

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

Members present: Marijan Andacic, Leah Basbanes, Kieran Meehan, Tara Alcorn and Juan Amodei

Member absent: Jeff Haight

Meeting held: at the Dunstable Town Hall – 511 Main Street-lower level – Grange Room

Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2019

Leah made a motion to approve the June 24 meeting minutes, with a correction. Marijan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bills/Payroll

Kieran made a motion to sign the payroll. Leah 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Turtle Signs – Girl Scout Project

Nasta Koyutis and Emily Callahan came to the meeting to pick up the wildlife signs that the Commission ordered. The Board of Selectmen approved the placement of the signs. Alan will work with the girls and their parents to install them.

July 22 Meeting

The Administrative Assistant mentioned that she would not be at the July 22 meeting. Members decided to cancel the meeting.

Update on Frye Field CR

The Administrative Assistant told members that the Conservation Restriction has been filed at the North Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Mr. Frye was paid. The reimbursement paperwork has been sent to the State.

Update on Sweet's Pond CR

Alan brought members up-to-date regarding the Sweet's Pond parcel telling them that the Dunstable Rural Land Trust (DRLT) paid for the original appraisal on the property with hopes of purchasing a Conservation Restriction (CR). They decided not to pursue the purchase due to ongoing issues with the McLoon property. The Conservation Commission decided to step in and apply for a LAND grant to pay for 60% of the \$180,000 price of a CR. An updated appraisal was needed since the original one was over a year old. The DRLT offered to pay ½ the \$2,800 cost. In the meantime, while reviewing the draft CR, Mr. Sweet and his son decided they did not want public access on the property therefore they reduced the price to purchase the CR and



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
mailto:conscom@dunstable-ma.gov

went back to the DRLT. The Trust has decided to purchase the CR to protect the Blanding's Turtle habitat and water supply (Salmon Brook). Alan will appear before the Board of Selectmen to bring them up to date on the project. Alan asked that the Commission still honor their agreement with the DRLT to pay for half of the appraisal. Juan made a motion to reimburse the DRLT \$1,400. Tara 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

23 Massapoag Way

Leah said that she met with Ken Tully and Maureen (Norse) out at 23 Massapoag Way. During the site visit, Mr. Tully agreed to stabilize the bank by the fall when the water is at its lowest point. After he stabilizes the bank, he or the owner of the property will request a full Certificate of Compliance.

Russell Pictures and GPS Points – Conservation Restriction

Alan and Tara will go out next Monday, July 15 to the Russell property to take pictures and GPS points for the Conservation Restriction. The Commission will be the holder of the CR.

Parking on Pleasant Street

Juan reported that there seem to be cars parked near Groton Street that may be from the business across the street. Leah will look into this.

Joe VLcek

Mr. VLcek came into the meeting to discuss four items with the Commission.

- 1) Westford Street Property. He inquired about fill placed on the Westford Street CR property, possibly near wetlands. Alan said the area in question, is not a wetland.
- 2) Flat Rock Hill. Mr. VLcek explained that he frequently mows a walking path about 8-10 feet away from the electric fence at Flat Rock Hill. He and the public use this access to get to the trail, avoiding the tall grass. He voiced his frustration that the owner of the fence continually moves it over the path he has mowed. He would like the Commission to ask her to create another track if she relocates the fence into the path he created. Members agreed there should be a path open all the time for the public in which Ms. Amodei should not place the fence. Alan will handle resolving this.
- 3) Flat Rock Hill. Mr. VLcek said that he has previously asked that the Commission talk to the landowner next to the Flat Rock Hill Conservation area and ask him not to plow in the entrance. This is not caused by the town trucks but is from the neighbor pushing snow off his entrance and creating a 4-foot high snow banks, making it impossible for the public to get to the property. Alan will talk to Mr. Joyce.



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
mailto:conscom@dunstable-ma.gov

- 4) Dogs on Leash Signs. Mr. VLcek explained that although he understands the Commission's perspective on having dogs on leashes at the Flat Rock Hill Conservation Area and Stone Arch Bridge, he is frustrated that the signs went up. He told members that his dogs are under his control and he would rather see a sign saying that owners must have control than one that all dogs must be leashed. Members explained that although he is a responsible owner, not everyone is. Alan said he witnessed a dog walker with seven dogs; three leashed and four loose. Packs of dogs can frighten people using the properties. There have also been incidences where horses, other dogs and people have been bothered by free-roaming dogs. The Commission is responding to the public and trying to head off any problems.

Motion was made, 2nd and passed unanimously to close the meeting at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Conservation Commission