



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

Meeting Held via Zoom
This meeting was held virtually through Zoom, Zoom ID 819 4428 4402

Conservation Commission Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2021

Approved: January 25, 2021

Chair Alan Chaney called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Members present: Leah Basbanes, Juan Amodei, Marijan Andacic and Tiffany Naughton (newly appointed, not sworn in)

Members absent: Al Starbird and Kate DeLoureiro

Usage of Flat Rock Hill Conservation Area after Dark – Joe VLcek

In attendance for discussion: Lori Joyce. Alan explained that at the last meeting, at Lori Joyce's request, members decided to close Flat Rock Hill from dusk to dawn. Ms. Joyce had said she was uncomfortable with the public having access to the premises at night and with vehicles driving in and out of the parking lot in the dark. Since then, there have been a number of comments from people in opposition of the policy. Joe VLcek explained that dusk is 4pm in the winter, which does not allow folks to enjoy the property after work. He said his family, as well as others, like to walk the area after dark. Mr. VLcek said that he is sympathetic to Ms. Joyce's concerns and asked if they could reach a compromise by closing the parking lot from 9pm to 5am. Ms. Joyce said that she prefers that people do not use the property at all after dark. She asked if Flat Rock is a state park, which would not be open after dusk. Alan said no. The property, owned by the Town of Dunstable and under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, was purchased partly with a state grant, and is open to the public for passive recreation. Alan said that currently the Commission does not restrict the hours that the public can utilize any of their properties. Members, sensitive to headlights shining on the Joyce property at night, felt that a reasonable compromise would be to restrict motor vehicles from entering the property after dark, but not prohibiting someone from going for a walk on the property. Ms. Joyce said that without totally restricting entrance onto the property by foot or motor vehicle after dark, she would no longer feel safe in her home. Leah explained that the open space is for people to use and it would not be right to place heavy restrictions on the property. The Joyce's purchased their home knowing that it abuts 148-acres of open space. After much discussion members felt a good compromise would be restricting vehicle access to the property at night. Leah made a motion to post a sign stating "*No motor vehicles from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise*". Marijan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. Alan said the issue could be revisited later if an issue arises. Leah mentioned staking out the parking area, which will help with damage to the field.

Trail Improvement – Joe and Gus VLcek

The VLcek's explained that they would like to conduct some trail maintenance on an old trail to reestablish the tract. The path they have in mind goes from the purple trail to the white trail



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

(Little Quarry Trail). They would like to use a weed whacker and leaf blower. A chain saw would only be used if they find a large dead or dying tree. Members will meet the VLcek's out at the site on Monday, January 18 at 1pm to look at the area.

461 Forest Street – Dennis Chartier – Stump Removal

Mr. Chartier told members that he had trees removed from his property 2-3 years ago. He would now like to cut the stumps flush to the ground or grind them. In addition, he would like to remove completely a 36" stump from his driveway. Mr. Chartier also asked the optimal time to do the replication area on his property. Members said spring. The Commission will meet Mr. Chartier out at the site on Monday, January 18 at 12:15pm to look at the stumps.

Meeting Minutes of December 28

Leah made a motion to approve, as submitted, the December 28 meeting minutes. Marijan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bills and Payroll –

No bills. Marijan made a motion to sign payroll. Juan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Emery LAND Grant Update

The Administrative Assistant reported that CR Reviewer returned the draft CR with corrections. Once made, the document will be returned to Mr. Gioia for review by his legal department.

Drew Parcel – Special Town Meeting

The Board of Health (BOH) has asked that the Drew parcel purchase go on the warrant for the next Special or Annual Town Meeting. With Covid-19 numbers rising, the Town has received permission for reduced attendees, and BOH fears many articles would draw out residents.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Leah made a motion to close the meeting at 7:26pm. Marijan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Monday, January 25 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Conservation Commission