



OFFICE OF THE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313  
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Meeting Held via Zoom  
This meeting was held virtually through Zoom, Zoom ID 826 5561 4798

**Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Monday, December 13, 2021**

Approved: December 27, 2021

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

Members present: Juan Amodei, Marijan Andacic, Leah Basbanes, Kate DeLoureiro, Tiffany Naughton and Al Starbird

**Discussion on Boardwalk Design**

Joe Ripley (Project Manager from Hoyle Tanner - Town Engineering firm) presented a power point overview of the Drew Landing Boardwalk project. He said that his project team consisted of Joanne Theriault (Environmental Scientist) and Heidi Marshall (Sr. Municipal Engineer & Quality Control). Mr. Ripley said that the boardwalk would be approximately 260 LF long with a possible observation platform. The structure must be accessible (FSTAG) and a minimum of 5' wide with a 90 PSF pedestrian load. The team utilized boring information from the Main Street bridge project and determined that the structure will be 30" off the ground; therefore, there is no need for a guardrail. The path to the structure will be 110 LF from the Drew Landing parking lot. Mr. Ripley said that he needs feedback from the Conservation Commission in order to move forward with the grant application.

- a. Foundation
  1. Helical Piles (recommended-no wetland excavation, use of small equipment and potential for "top down" construction)
  2. Timber piles (lower reliability, harder to install, pressure treated wood in wetland)
  3. Concrete or Steel Footings (greater environmental impact, more excavation, may not be suitable for proposed loads)
- b. Framing
  1. Pressure treated timber (pros-lower material costs, more customizable) (cons-potential chemical impact to wetland, longer construction duration)
  2. Galvanized steel-modular construction (pros-longer service life, top-down construction, faster construction, less environmental impact) (cons-higher cost, requires 8' wide boardwalk minimum)
- c. Decking
  1. Composite decking (HDPE or Trex) (pros-longer service life) (cons-higher cost, possible mildew growth/slippery)
  2. Pressure treated wood (pros-lower cost, boards readily available for replacement) (cons-chemicals under bridge)

Estimated construction for a timber boardwalk is \$160,000-\$170,000 and \$175,000-\$190,000 for composite decking. Joan Simmons (Community Preservation Committee) asked members about financing. Alan said that they are hoping that if the state awards them a MassTrails grant for the design/engineering portion, they would be willing to approve funding for construction up to 80% of the project cost. The remaining funds would possibly come from Community Preservation Act funds, donations and the Conservation Commission.



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Leah expressed concern about trucks driving over the 8' modular boardwalk. Joe said they could install collapsible or removable bollards. She also asked about open steel grates, however, Joe said they might not work with accessibility.

If approved by residents at the Annual Town Meeting and the State of Massachusetts, the design phase will commence on July 1, 2022 with construction in summer of 2023.

Joe told members if they wanted to see a boardwalk, there is one in Nashua NH. Members decided to go out to the site this Saturday, December 18 at 10am.

#### **Spaulding Proctor Property – Scouting Event**

Phil DeNyse attended the meeting to give the Commission an overview of a district wide scouting event from February 4 through February 6. He said that scouts from all over Massachusetts would be camping on Larter Field for the "Klondike Derby". They would like to set up activity stations on the Spaulding Proctor Reservation trails on Saturday February 5. Phil DeNyse and Sara Axon are the contacts for the event. Marijan made a motion to endorse the use of Spaulding Proctor Reservation by the scouts. Juan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2021**

Leah made a motion to approve, as submitted, the November 22 meeting minutes. Juan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Bills and Payroll -**

Tiffany made a motion to sign the \$200 Cover Lawn Care invoice for mowing. Kate 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. Juan made a motion to sign the invoice for the \$100 Nashua River membership. Tiffany 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. Tiffany made a motion to sign payroll. Marijan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Email Regarding Beavers**

The office received an email and follow up phone call regarding beaver trapping on Conservation land. Members agreed that they are not in need of trapping services. Alan reminded members that there is a beaver season and trappers must be licensed by the state. If it is off-season, a permit from the Board of Health is needed.

#### **Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda**

Motion to adjourn by Leah, seconded by Kate at 7:39 pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Monday, December 27 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann  
Administrative Assistant - Dunstable Conservation Commission  
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