



Bolton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes



Date:	Monday, March 23 rd 2020
Time/Location	7:00 p.m. Remote participation via Zoom
Commissioners Present:	Chair Brian Berube, Kip McNamara, Jeffrey Bryan, William Payne, Emily Winner, Lori Stephenson, (Conservation Administrator, Rebecca Longvall)
Guests:	Greg Roy, Chris Post, Lyle Rudolff, Megan Moran
Next Meeting:	Tuesday, April 7 th 2020 7:00pm, Houghton Building, 697 Main Street

Agenda Items

	Agenda Item	Action
1.	<p>401 Main street - Discussion – <i>sensory garden and yurt proposed within area labeled as existing pasture area on plans</i></p> <p>The applicant Megan Moran and their team were present to give a summary of the proposed work.</p> <p>The Commission inquired whether the yurt was temporary in nature, the applicant confirmed they would like it to be present long term but it is indeed a temporary structure shown in the images included in their presentation; blocks and a wooden frame at the base of the structure. The existing condition is heavily disturbed due to the grazing and livestock kept in this location. The commission commented the area should be stabilized in addition to the yurt placement.</p> <p>The Applicant will need to file a Request for Determination of Applicability after completing restoration work within the existing Order of Conditions.</p>	
2.	<p>Mosquito Response Committee – The conservation commission discussed and voted on the recommendation regarding the article specific to the town joining Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Program.</p> <p>Emily gave input and provided details from the public information session that was held by the Mosquito Response Committee.</p> <p>Lori gave insight on the technical and scientific considerations that are required for the application of any treatment stressing individuals need to be certified to do so.</p> <p>Other commission members inquired as to the cost of joining the program, potential implications on taxes, treatments, other measures carried out to reduce the need for a chemical or bacterial treatment, the length of time required for the program and are other pests also impacted by this treatment.</p>	<p>Chair Brian called a vote of the Conservation Commission to recommend the article regarding joining CMMCP.</p> <p>Unanimous, 6-0 to recommend the article for Town Meeting.</p>

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3.	<p>Request for Determination of Applicability – 787 Main Street -proposed work on existing gravel driveway associated with an existing single-family home.</p> <p>The applicant Chris Post and his engineer Greg Roy were present to provide the commission with a summary of the proposed project. The DEP number has not yet been issued at this time.</p> <p>The existing driveway is gravel and the applicant is looking to reduce maintenance needs while resolving an issue of water flooding their home. The proposed project would be creating positive grades toward the vegetated areas surrounding the existing driveway leading toward the resource areas. In addition, the applicant is proposing to pave the driveway. There is work proposed within the Bordering Vegetation Wetland which is proposed to be carried out by hand due to the minimal amount of grade change proposed. The proposed remediation would be to reseed the area with a wetland mix and plant about 12 shrubs. The applicant and his representative feel this will enhance the existing area specific to the resource area.</p> <p>The Conservation Administrator inquired whether there were other materials and methods considered specific to less impervious materials that would differ from gravel or pavement. Commission members inquired about vegetation as a natural filter system before getting to the resource area. Members also stated pavement may redirect flow off of the driveway toward vegetated surface areas in a more successful manner. The commission also inquired about existing flow and drainage infrastructure at the head of the driveway along the slope where there is a proposed riprap area. The applicant’s representative stated the importance of attempting to build back in a gutter line as the basin is not within a low point on the roadway.</p>	<p>Brian requests scheduling of a site visit.</p> <p>Chair Brian makes a motion to continue the public hearing for 787 Main street at the request of the applicant until April 7th 2020 to be held at 7:15pm on the remote platform Zoom. Jeff seconded; all unanimously approve.</p>
4.	<p>Taggart updates – The Bolton Conservation Administrator provided the commission with an update on the Taggart property. The Board of Selectmen will meet on Thursday to discuss if the article will be placed on the warrant for Town Meeting. Bill inquired about the status of the property. Jeff inquired about the appraisal. Emily and Brian inquired if a comparison of chapter land that the commission has passed on could be inventoried. In addition, noting land use changes in the past 5 years establishing how many acres have been developed and for what use. The Conservation Administrator stated the 5-year comparison will be addressed in items the Town Planner and she are working on. She will reach out to the assessors for land taken out of chapter within the past 5 years and provide the commission with information specific to land use changes.</p>	
5.	<p>Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program – The Core Team has met and the Conservation Administrator is working with the Town’s MVP provider to outline and have the EEA approve a virtual workshop with remote participation. The Bolton Conservation Commission is looking for community members to assist with the Community Resiliency Building workshop. Information will be posted to the Conservation Commission page on the town website on the calendar, new and announcements and the “Climate Adaptation” on the left hand side of the ConCom page.</p>	
6.	<p>Volunteer Land Steward Position – position open, accepting applications</p>	
7.	<p>Minutes – Chair Brian made a motion to approve the minutes from the public hearing dated 2/18/2020. Emily seconded; all unanimously approve.</p>	

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8.	<p>Vaughn Hill Moen – two hazardous trees within the Moen Conservation property parking area proposed to be removed in the amount of around \$600.00.</p> <p>The commission asked if the trees are within the right of way or in danger of damaging the power lines are other entities responsible for this removal The Conservation Administrator stated she will investigate. The Commission is comfortable with expending these funds should it be necessary to remove the trees. However, the appropriate entity should be responsible for the removal.</p>	
9.	<p>Conservation Sign Replacement – The Conservation Administrator discussed the updates to the trail maps that the trails committee has been proactive and successful in creating. In addition, signs within the conservation properties are in need of updating. The Conservation Administrator received a cost estimate of materials for these updates of the signs on the properties totaling around \$300.00 for 30. The Commission was comfortable with this expenditure and use of funds and like the idea to wait until we are closer to the fiscal year end to expend the funds based on any savings that was realized in the budget.</p>	
10.	<p>Council on Aging – Painted Rock placement – Council on Aging is holding a rock painting event in which the participants are invited to place rocks throughout the community. The commission sees no issue with the rocks being placed throughout the properties but asked is the paint non-toxic? In addition, they remind individuals the rocks may not be placed within resource areas and not in water.</p>	
11.	<p>Deer Pellet Survey – Volunteer wanted</p> <p>Seeking assistance in walking transects to conduct pellet surveys. These surveys consist of finding out how many steps it takes you to walk 100'. Following an established transect stopping every 100' to observe the presence and number of deer pellet groupings. Observations are to be recorded on the provided data sheet then emailed to the Conservation Administrator. This is an effort in collaboration with the MassWildlife.</p>	
12.	<p>40B Bolton The Woods at Farm Road – preliminary comments from board to Board of Appeals as requested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything should be pulled outside of the commissions jurisdictional areas; this includes the 100' adjacent upland resource area as established under our Wetland Bylaw Chapter 233. - Reduce the entrances from two to one (specifically the one away from the resource area). - Reduce the amount of structures on site, from four to one or two structures with multiple units inside, this will allow for the project to be pulled further away from the AURA, and other jurisdictional areas. - Infiltrate on site runoff from all impervious surfaces - Pull septic and associated grading further away from property line and resource area. - Stake out the property line and permanently delineate the property boundary with visible monuments (posts, split rail fence, boulders, etc.) 	
13.	<p>Chair Brian made a motion to close the public meeting of the Conservation Commission March 23rd 2020. Jeff seconded; all unanimously approve.</p>	

Approved Meeting Minutes

Initials					
Commissioner	B. Berube	K. McNamara	E. Winner	W. Payne	J. Bryan