

**Town of Foxborough
Conservation Commission Minutes
April 26, 2010**

Members present: Bob Boette (Chairman), Alan Curtis (Vice Chairman), Doug Davis, Judi Johnson, Jim Marsh, Eric Nelson

Absent: Harold Blomberg
Bill Hocking, Temporary Conservation Manager

Also present: Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Manager

Meeting Opened

Bob Boette opened the meeting, which was held in the McGinty Meeting Room in the Public Safety Building, at 7:05 p.m.

Foxborough Regional Charter School, 131 Central Street

Bill Buckley, Trustee of the Foxborough Regional Charter School, attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of the Charter School leasing or purchasing the conservation land that abuts the school's property for the school's recreational use. This particular piece of conservation land is a large pine forest.

The school is planning a 20 million dollar expansion project and currently has little room for outside recreation. As part of the expansion plan, the school would like to create balls fields on this conservation land which would involve the removal of many pine trees.

Selling land that has been designated conservation land is a very complicated and difficult, if not impossible process (Article 97). There was discussion about a possible land swap whereby the School would purchase another piece of land and donate it to the Town and take ownership of the abutting conservation land. Bill Buckley said the School is open to consider all options and can be very flexible but they do not want to move forward with their proposal if the Commission is not interested in considering School's alteration and use of this land. The Commission asked Jane to contact Dave Risch to ask him if he know of any lands that might be appropriate for a swap.

The Commission expressed concerns about setting a precedent along with the possibility of upsetting homeowners that abut the property. Bob said he would speak with Andy Gala and ask for advice from Town Counsel. Bill didn't want him to go to the expense of involving Town Counsel; he simply wanted get the Commission's feedback about the school's proposed plans.

DEP #157-170 - Request for OoC Extension - Cocasset Lake Association

Jane expressed her concern about not having any information about the Lake Association's current weed management plan for Cocasset Lake and the Commission agreed. Before an extension will be granted, the applicant will need to attend an upcoming meeting to answer questions about their weed management program. Judy was asked to contact the group to ask them to attend a meeting.

Neponset Reservoir Dam, DEP #157-449 - Project Completion Questions

Jane had met with Bob Kimball, Allen Orsi (PARE), and Chuck Nolan (Lynch) to discuss the following questions.

1. Upstream Turbidity Barriers - Lynch asked if these could be removed.
2. Stone Column - Will the column be left in place or restored to the original location?
3. Track mat at site entrance - Does this need to be removed? The plans call for it to be removed and the roadway restored. However, if left in place, it would help stabilize the entrance.

She wanted to ensure that the Commission agreed with her recommendations to PARE and Lynch and reviewed her Manager's Report and recommendations with the Commission as follows:

1. The turbidity barriers are currently only located on the left side of the dam outlet's stream (looking downstream). Rip rap has been placed in the area that had been seeping water; a small pool of water has formed at the base of this rip rap. Since the vegetation at the base of the slope had not grown back yet (with the exception of a few skunk cabbage plants), Jane thought that it would be a good idea to keep the boom in place. Since the wetland mitigation area (in the field) had not been seeded yet, Jane asked if they would plant the same seed mix at the base of the hill (when the mitigation area was seeded). Chuck said that he would do this.
2. Jane believed that the stone column should stay in place, just in case large equipment needs to access the site in the future. The upright metal post (that the gate had been attached to) will be reinstalled next to and behind the stone column, in the same fashion as the opposite side.
3. Allen, Bob and Chuck indicated that the gate could be extended and the upright metal post, which was removed to move the column, could be installed in a similar location as the left side.

They visited the mitigation area and discussed the dirt pile that was left over from the work area, which they had previously planned to remove, but the large equipment needed to remove the dirt might become mired in the mud, making removal difficult. Chuck wanted to know if they could move the dirt pile to the adjacent area, just uphill from the mitigation area, which is currently unvegetated and/or covered in brambles. Jane thought that it would be a good solution, but warned them not to compact or cover the tree roots too deeply and asked them to hydroseed the area with the dam's slope mix. She asked them to remove the adjacent silt controls after they were finished, since the mitigation area depression would prevent any potential silt from entering the wetlands. She preferred that they were removed as soon as possible, since the area's wildlife (turtles, etc.) would not be able to access the uplands easily with the silt controls in place.

Jane asked if they would be willing to add some gravel to the parking area, adjacent to the field. Bob Kimball told her that since they had some gravel monies left over, he would be willing to help out by directing Lynch to place a layer of gravel over the area and then level it out.

The Commission agreed with Jane's previous recommendations to PARE and Lynch. Bob B. then reminded the Commission that Bob Kimball had told the Commission that if any funds were left over at the end of the job, they would restore the gate house and update the mechanism for changing the reservoir's water levels. The current process for adding or removing the boards to the dam is difficult; updating the mechanism would make it easier to use and allow for finer tweaking. Bob wanted to ensure that Mr. Kimball's offer was not forgotten.

Taunton River Watershed Association Grant

Bob and Jane attended the TRWA Conference last Saturday and received their grant of \$2,000 towards the completion of Foxborough's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Camping on Conservation Land

Jane received an email asking whether rustic camping (off-trail in a tent) and camp fires were allowed anywhere in Foxborough. Bob stated that Foxborough's Conservation Land is closed from sun down to sun up; no unauthorized (in writing) camping is allowed.

Greeley Pond Dam

Jane will follow up with Norfolk County to see what progress they are making with dam inspections.

Order of Conditions – Proposed Conditions

Jane has combined the State and Bylaw Order of Conditions forms into one form and wanted the Commission's okay, which they gave.

Bylaw Regulations

There was a brief discussion about the process. Jim has started to draft proposed regulations so that a plan can be developed for going forward, which will need to include a legal notice in the paper, a hearing, etc. Jim will send the Commission and Jane additional information.

Motion was made by made by Allan Curtis to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Doug Davis.

Vote: 6:0:0

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Draft minutes submitted by: Judy Leahy on 4/30/10

Approved by Commission: 5/03/10