

**Town of Foxborough
Conservation Commission Minutes
February 14, 2011**

Members present: Robert Boette (Chair), Allan Curtis (Vice Chair), Judith Johnson, Eric Nelson (Clerk) and James Marsh
Absent: Harold Blomberg and Doug Davis
Also present: Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Manager

Meeting Opened

Bob Boette opened the meeting, held in the Andrew A. Gala Jr. Meeting Room, at 7:00 p.m.

NRRC, Re: Proposed Bill Hocking Memorial at the Neponset Reservoir

Kim Mellen and Sheila Warner of the NRRC came to the meeting to let the Commission know that the NRRC would like to donate a memorial bench for Bill somewhere on the Neponset Reservoir. They indicated that they planned to order a granite bench from Morse and Banks and showed the Commission a photo of the bench they had chosen, which was gray granite with hour glass legs. It should arrive six weeks after ordering the bench. Sheila suggested putting the bench at the newly renovated dam, since Bill spent a lot of time there.

Bob thanked them, saying “I love the idea.” He suggested taking a joint walk in their proposed bench locations to pick a site that was visible and open but out of the way of snow mobiles.

The Commission was told that it would cost \$150 for footings and either \$1,000 for a straight bench, or \$1,200 for a curved bench. Bob offered to ask Bob Swanson at the Highway Department to see if they could help with the site preparation.

Kim told the Commission that they would order the bench and call the office to arrange a walk.

Continued Hearing, NOI, DEP #157-497, 67 North High Street (Christensen Estates), Rietz

Motion was made by Allan Curtis to close the hearing for DEP #157-497. Seconded by Judi Johnson. **Vote: 5:0:0**

2010 Annual Report

After reviewing Jane’s draft 2010 Annual Report, Bob asked the Commission if they had any comments. Judi noticed that Bill Hocking’s death announcement listed the wrong date (it was in late 2010, not early 2011). She also recommended adding the following at the end of the paragraph about the NRRC’s work at the Neponset Reservoir: “The Commission feels that this is important work on behalf of the Town.” Jane said that she would modify the report and re-submit it.

Motion was made by Allan Curtis to accept the 2010 Annual Report, with the two modifications, as discussed. Seconded by Eric Nelson. **Vote: 5:0:0**

Open Space & Recreation Plan 7 Year Action Plan Review

Jane updated the Commission on her progress with the OSRP, saying that during the previous monthly Department Head meeting, she had passed out Sections 8 and 9 for their review. She told them that if they wanted to add to or revise the sections, they needed to let her know as soon as possible, since the plan will be for seven years. So far, she had only received comments from Cindy Khalifa (Advisory Committee Member).

Since then, Jane and Judi spent many hours, revising Section 9’s Seven Year Action Plan. During last week’s Department Head meeting, she explained the importance of the OSRP, particularly in

qualifying for State grant monies. Kevin reiterated the Plan's importance, advising that if a proposed project was not listed in the plan, it would not be eligible for State grants. He told the group that they should submit their comments to Jane by March 10.

Jane asked the Commission to take home to review and asking for comments and/or additions and then be prepared to give it their okay at the next meeting. After quick review, Bob thought that any changes would be minor.

Jane and Judi then quickly reviewed the 7 year action plan (2011-2018). Jane indicated that the OSRP's number one goal was to establish an Open Space & Recreation Committee to implement the OSRP and to update the Town's GIS capabilities. Judi stressed that they had to outsource the open space plan's (required) GIS maps because Foxborough doesn't have up-to-date GIS software.

Judi recommended that the Commission should just apply for the GIS grant that Jane mentioned several months ago, which was "free" for \$400. She thought that if they acquired a copy for Jane's use, the town would eventually realize its importance. Judi compared paying \$400 for the GIS software grant to buying any other piece of equipment for Jane to use.

Motion was made by Judi Johnson to approve the payment of \$400, which would be due if/when the GIS grant is approved/received. Seconded by Allan Curtis. **Vote: 5:0:0**

Jane told the Commission that the Town Hall staff recently had a GIS meeting, during which Marshfield's GIS Manager and Fire Chief gave excellent presentations.

Jane then told the Commission that Kevin had asked all department heads for a list of FY11-12 goals and objectives, which he will put in a binder to be used as a work plan. Department head performance evaluations will be based on these lists. She added that some of the goals and objectives should probably be included in Section 8 and/or 9 of the OSRP.

Use of State Filing Fees to Increase Manager's Hours

In his Executive Summary for the FY'12 Operating Budget, Kevin Paicos indicated that "the Commission may choose to use its 50% share of State filing fees to further fund the Director. If this vote is taken by the Commission an amendment to the budget will be proposed." Jane reviewed this information in her Manager's Report. The Executive Summary indicated that Kevin was proposing to increase Jane's hours to 23.33 in FY12; Jane is now getting benefits.

Motion was made by Allan Curtis to use State wetland filing fees to further fund the Conservation Manager's increased hours. Seconded by Eric Nelson. **Vote: 5:0:0**

MACC Conference Attendance

Bob asked the Commissioners who was planning to attend the upcoming MACC Conference. Jane added that their folders contained a list of MACC courses upon which she had indicated the courses with the speakers she preferred. Jane, Bob, Jim and Eric were all planning to attend the conference; Judi has other plans and won't be able to attend.

Chairman's Vacation Plans

Bob Boette announced that he would be out of Town between February 15th and March 4.

Snowmobiles on the Lane Property

Bob told the Commissioners that Edie Ericson had called him to complain about snow mobiles at the Lane Property. Jane added that Dianna Weckbacker, the tenant at 89 North Street, has also made many calls about numerous snow mobiles that she has observed on the property. Jane said that Dianna has also called the police, but there is nothing that the police can do, particularly since they are usually gone by the time the police arrive at the property.

Judi explained that Jane had asked her to write an article for the Foxboro Reporter reminding people that conservation lands are for “passive” recreation, only and indicating that the use of off- road motorized vehicles is prohibited. Jane thanked her, saying it was an excellent article which she has posted on the Commission’s bulletin board and on their website.

Continued NOI, DEP #157-495, 52 Neponset Heights Avenue, Deng & Cheng

During the last meeting, the applicant’s representative said that they were waiting for the Commission’s approval before going before the Board of Health. Jane told the Commission that he recently informed her that he had forgotten during the previous meeting that the BoH had already approved the site’s septic system; therefore, the hearing could now be closed.

Motion was made by Allan Curtis to close the hearing for DEP #157-495. Seconded by Eric Nelson. **Vote: 5:0:0**

Revised Filing Fees, Wetland & Groundwater Protection Bylaw (Article IX)

Bob Boette read the legal notice and opened the hearing to revise the Commission’s Wetlands & Groundwater Protection Bylaw (Article IX) filing fees, to better reflect budgetary costs for the review and administration of wetland permit applications.

Bob explained that Kevin Paicos had asked Town boards to review their fees to increase them if warranted. He said that Jane had been working on revising their fees and had surveyed surrounding towns to determine that the proposed fee increases were in line with the other towns. Bob also explained that although he could not come to the meeting, Doug had concerns that a \$250 fee for single family house modifications might be on the high side. Jane explained that most single family home modifications would simply require the filing of a Request for Determination, with a \$75 fee.

Motion was made by Allan Curtis to accept the revised wetland filings fees as presented. Seconded by Judi Johnson. **Vote: 5:0:0**

Order of Conditions, DEP #157-493, Nadia Estates

Jane explained that she had emailed the “final draft” of the OoC to Jim Pavlik a week ago, today he had sent her an email asking to extend the OoC discussions because Mr. Itani was out of town. After receiving his email, Jane spoke to Bob, who advised her to send Jim an email saying that the Commission would decide whether to continue the discussions this evening. Jim then called Jane and they reviewed the draft OoC. Jane agreed to some minor revisions that he had requested, but some of his requested changes were declined.

Jane recommended that the Commission review and sign the Order of Conditions. The Commission reviewed the OoC, as drafted, and made a slight modification to Special Condition 34.

Motion was made by Judi Johnson to sign the Order of Conditions, with the slight modification to Special Condition 34. Seconded by Allan Curtis. **Vote: 5:0:0**

Farm Lease/License Discussion

Jane told the Commission that when she reviewed some old notes, she realized that the YMCA stood to make quite a profit from their farming project. She said that they had made \$1,500 last year and were planning to have a full season of produce for \$350 per share, or \$10,500, less credits for last year’s participants, which would equal \$9,500.

She compiled a minutes history of the YMCA community garden project for the Commission’s review, because she was concerned that the project was becoming a money making venture. She reminded the Commission that early on in their discussions, Doug had expressed his concerns about the use of town property to make a profit. Jane thought that when it expired in June, the YMCA

lease should be increased so that the Commission and town could recoup some of the profits. Bob agreed, saying that he thought it would be fair to split the profits.

Since Kevin had asked all town departments to perform revenue enhancement reviews, she wanted to review all agricultural activities on conservation land. Bob said that a Stoughton farmer was haying Hersey Farm's fields, adding that the Farm Stand's profits go into the Discretionary Fund.

UMass Extension's Keystone Project

Jane told the Commission about an opportunity to participate in the Keystone Project, which is held at Harvard Forest. She explained that an application is required, but if chosen, the program is free. She participated in the program in 1998, saying that it was developed to encourage community leaders for environmental advocacy. It is also a great opportunity for networking and making life-long connections; she met Jen Carlino, Norton's Conservation Agent, while attending the program. Jane highly recommended that Commission members consider applying for this three day program, scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, March 13-17.

NRRC Neponset Reservoir Management Report

Judi reviewed the recent Management Report, explaining that the NRRC had performed some algae sampling. The samples included a mixture of normal algae and nuisance algae. The report recommended that they perform another plant survey in spring and more algae sampling and that if there are algae issues, there would be further consideration for phosphorous management.

December 13, 2010 Minutes

Motion was made by Eric Nelson to accept the December 13, 2010 meeting minutes, as distributed. Seconded by Judi Johnson. **Vote: 5:0:0.**

January 3, 2011 Minutes

Motion was made by Eric Nelson to accept the January 3, 2011 meeting minutes, as distributed. Seconded by Judi Johnson. **Vote: 5:0:0.**

Meeting Adjourned

Motion was made by Judi Johnson to adjourn. Seconded by Allan Curtis. **Vote: 5:0:0**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Nelson, Clerk

List of Documents, Reviewed during Meeting

1. Kevin Paicos' Executive Summary for the FY'12 Operating Budget
2. Conservation Manager's Report, 2/14/11
3. Wetlands & Groundwater Protection Bylaw's revised filing fees
4. Foxboro Reporter article by Judi Johnson about Passive Recreation on Conservation Land

Draft minutes taken by Judy Leahy

Reviewed by Jane Pierce: 3/9/11

Approved by Commission: 3/14/11