

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 2021  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, HANSON TOWN HALL  
542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA 02341**

Called to Order at 7:00 pm under M.G.L. c131, §40 and the Hanson By-Law 3-13, §5 and Rules and Regulations by Phil Clemons, Chairman, Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall, Hanson, MA

**Present:** Phil Clemons, Chairman  
Sharon LePorte, Vice Chairman  
David Mansfield, Clerk  
Thomas Roffey, Jr., Member  
Frank Schellenger, Agent  
Lan Woodward, Administrative Assistant

**Also Present:** Ron Lillie, Wagon Trail  
David Ellis, County Road Partners, LLC  
Jay Ellis, County Road Partners, LLC  
John Norris, West Washington Street  
Bob Huston, West Washington Street  
Ruth and Dean Sylvester, West Washington Street  
Tracy and Todd Sylvester, West Washington Street  
Pepper Santa Lucia, West Washington Street  
Kathryn J. Wright, County Road  
Heather and Keith Johnson, County Road  
Kelly O'Donnell, Holmes Street  
Marian and Robert Scott, Holmes Street  
Dave Beauvais, Sr., Holmes Street  
Alayna Hanlon, Captain Nathaniel Road  
Frank Milisi, Brook Street  
Kathy Egan, Monponsett Street

**Minutes**

July 21, 2021

**Motion to approve July 21, 2021 Minutes by:** Sharon LePorte

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 4-0-0

**Public Hearings**

**7:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability** for removal of three trees and trim of fourth tree located on property and within 100' of bordering vegetated wetlands and river located at 47 Wagon Trail, Map 113, Lot 47, for Ronnie A. Lillie. (New Hearing)

Mr. Mansfield read the Public Hearing Notice and the green cards were verified.

Ron Lillie was present to discuss the proposed project with the Commission. There are currently 3 maple trees in the back of his house that are growing in, he has concerns that they will fall onto the house. The fourth is an oak tree furthest from the house, which is the biggest one they are requesting to trim.

Agent Schellenger visited the site. The trees are in the lawn behind the deck; 12" and 15", they are both within 100' of wetlands and Indian Head Brook. The 3rd tree behind house has the request to trim branches, it is about 18". The tree out front is further away, probably out of jurisdiction, and a Negative 3 Determination is recommended.

Chair Clemons asked if there were any questions or comments.

**Motion to issue variance for work within 50' buffer zone by:** David Mansfield  
**Second:** Sharon LePorte  
**Vote:** 4-0-0

**Motion to close hearing and approve a Negative 3 Determination subject to Special Conditions by:** David Mansfield  
**Second:** Sharon LePorte  
**Vote:** 4-0-0

**7:30 PM Continued Notice of Intent to construct a residential subdivision roadway partially within the 100' setback to a bordering vegetated wetland at 0 County Road, Map 74, Lot 7&8, for Ellis Building & Development Corp., represented by County Road Partners, LLC, 20 Stearns Road, Scituate, MA 02066. (DEP# SE175-0730)**

\*Member Thomas Roffey, Jr. recused himself from the hearing.

David Ellis stated that they were planning on continuing the hearing, but were made aware that there was a different peer reviewer than they thought had been discussed. There has been correspondence with Agent Schellenger and Peter Dillon, who is very well respected with regards to the questions on mounding analysis. Mr. Ellis stated that they are here for 2 reasons:

1. Request the limit of reviewer's scope of work to the geologist's report. They are confident in their analysis.
2. Discuss the Peer Reviewer that was chosen. He is a professional engineer, not a hydrogeologist, and he is not qualified.

Chair Clemons stated that the best decision is to be thorough, and the reason for getting new information is to relate it to everything we know. It is difficult to grasp how we would have a geological summary and not relate it. It's all one set of data. The Commission has the right to review findings that relate to other aspects of projects.

Agent Schellenger stated that the choice of John Chessia was undertaken with some thought. He contacted Environmental Partners, they declined. Allen & Major was contacted, but their drainage specialist was on vacation. In the interest of time, Mr. Chessia is qualified. He is the goto for the Town of Norwell, and he would be happy to give you his resume.

Chair Clemons asked if there were any questions, comments.

**Motion to continue hearing to August 18, 2021 at 7:45 PM by:** Sharon LePorte  
**Second:** David Mansfield  
**Vote:** 3-0-1

#### **Appointments** –(None)

#### **Discussions**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates;** September 8th&22nd, October 6th&20th

#### **Town Meeting Articles**

Articles due August 24, 2021. Proposed Articles for the October 2021 Special Town Meeting:

1. An article of \$65,000 to purchase the property at 485 Winter Street, including closing costs and title search.
2. An article to establish a budget line item for pond management.
3. An article to fund the budget line item for FY2022 to cover April to June 2022.

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Funds the sum of \$65,000 to acquire the property at 485 Winter Street, Assessors Map 98, Lot 12, containing 8.97 acres more or less for open space management and related conservation purposes or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** This parcel is a portion of the Little Cedar Swamp, an approximately 100 acre wooded wetland that is one of the headwaters of the Indian Head and North Rivers. It contains a portion of the brook that drains the swamp and feeds Indian Head Brook via a culvert under Winter Street. It has become available for purchase. It would join the 75 acres already owned by the Town, thus strengthening the protection of a major part of the Little Cedar Swamp. The Community Preservation Committee has approved the application for this transfer. The Conservation Commission will pay for the title search and closing costs from the Conservation Fund (est. \$8,000.00).

**Motion to approve proposed Article 1 for the October 2021 Special Town Meeting by:** David Mansfield

**Second:** Sharon LePorte

**Vote:** 4-0-0

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a budget line item for Pond Management or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** Pond management has become increasingly needed because of the invasion of non-native plant species and periodic algae blooms, including toxic cyanobacteria growth. An ongoing commitment is needed to determine and carry out treatment and preventive measures to recover and sustain the health of Hanson's ponds, including our portion for treatment of ponds shared with other towns. This article will establish a budget line item that should be funded on an annual basis.

**Motion to approve proposed Article 1 for the October 2021 Special Town Meeting by:** Sharon LePorte

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 4-0-0

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free Cash the sum of \$(TBD) for Pond Management for the balance of FY2022 or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** If the previous article is approved, funding is needed for the balance of this fiscal year to plan for and carry out early treatment efforts for ponds harmed by invasive plants and algae blooms in 2021. Additional funding will be requested at the May Town Meeting for FY2023 (July 2022 - June 2023).

**Motion to approve proposed Article 3 for the October 2021 Special Town Meeting by:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Second:** Sharon LePorte

**Vote:** 4-0-0

#### **Mass DEP NRD Grant Opportunity Update**

Town of Hanson letters of support that were co-signed by the Chair of Selectmen, Chair of Conservation, and Town Administrator were sent regarding:

NSRWA Restoration Partnership Application

NSRWA Natural Resources Damage Assessment & Restoration Application

### **USDA Draft Update**

Conference call was conducted on 07.28.21 with Helen Castles re: proposed changes to water control structures Smitty's Bog (Alton J. Smith Conservation Area, formerly Edgewood Bogs). Ms. Castle is in agreement with proposed changes. Correspondence to be sent confirming wetlands restoration project and final details tabulated for modifications to specific water control structures. Funding from USDA/NRCS available; up to a maximum of \$3,000.00. Also agreed upon, shared goals to improve ecological functionality and habitat connectivity in the Indian Head Brook headwater area.

### **Eagle Scout Project Update(s)**

Scout Woodward planned a work day 08.01.21 for the trail to be cleared and kiosk footings dug for installation. Mr. Roffey stopped by the site, the trail was cleared and the cabin was taken down. Draft of Signage should be forwarded along for Commission approval. He is also making a copy of the trail to place at kiosk along with sending a digital version for Conservation use. There are no stakes in the ground, but Mr. Woodward is planning on marking the trail. The Commission recommends using the small hiking guide signs which we have in the office.

### **Property Management Update**

**Smith-Nawazelski;** Mr. Mansfield sent follow up to Dan Borin, AMC, regarding repair/maintenance status of BCT and possible re-route of part of BCT and handled trash removal. Tracked alternate BCT proposed route on Relive App; from power lines to bog area ¼ mile short of Poor Meadow Brook.

**Smitty's Bog;** Mr. Mansfield cleaned up boat ramp areas and handled trash removal.

**Webster-Billings;** Trail walk rescheduled to August 15th. No trash or damage noted.

**Indian Crossway;** No update.

**Poor Meadow Brook;** Inner and outer loop trails have been cleared by Eagle Scout project. Trail is well laid out. No signage at this point.

**Rocky Run;** No evidence of campers in the area. Mr. Mansfield handled trash removal at the site. The Commission discussed the camping request received on 07.26.21. Chair Clemons to follow up, this area does not have the capacity.

**Town Forest;** Trash removal handled at site.

**Plymouth County Hospital Trail;** Chair Clemons and Agent Schellenger visited the site. The flags are up. The Reuse Committee asked if volunteers were needed at site. We currently have a paved road that is covered in Japanese knotweed. We could have the volunteers, with supervision, clear the knotweed and place it into trash bags so they do not re-root. It would engage people in stewardship of property under Conservation management. We do have volunteer forms and waivers that were approved by Town Counsel.

**Pine Meadow Nursery;** Conservation Commission discussed possible construction activity of new driveway, it would be near or on wetlands. If necessary, a cease and desist would be issued.

### **Old Business/New Business**

**Invoice for Public Hearing Notice** (Hanson Express) for 47 Wagon Trail, Determination of Applicability - **Signed**

**Invoice for Membership** (MSMCP) for FY2022 Dues - **Signed**

**Invoice for Brochure Holders** (Displays 2 Go) for Kiosks - **Signed**

### **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM by:** Sharon LePorte

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 4-0-0