

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2023
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 Thomas Roffey, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall, Hanson, MA. This meeting of the Hanson Conservation Commission is audio-recorded.

Present: Thomas Roffey, Jr., Vice Chairman
David Mansfield, Clerk
Edwin Heal, Member
Stephen Smith, Member
Chris Hoffman, Associate Member
Lan Woodward, Administrative Assistant
Frank Schellenger, Agent

Absent: Phil Clemons, Chairman

Also Present: Joseph Webby, Webby Engineering, Inc.
Heather O'Neill, Pennsylvania Avenue
Diana Clay, Pennsylvania Avenue
Nicole Riley, Red Horse Farm LLC, High Street

Minutes

November 1st, 2023

Motion to approve minutes of November 1st, 2023 by: Edwin Heal

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

Public Hearings

7:00 PM Notice of Intent to install an in-ground swimming pool with associated apron and fencing within 100' of bordering vegetated wetlands at 141 Pennsylvania Avenue, Map 84, Lot 2A-12A, for John and Heather O'Neill, represented by Webby Engineering, Inc., 180 County Road, Plympton, MA 02367. **(New Hearing)**

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

Joseph Webby, Webby Engineering, Inc., presented plans to the Commission. The property abuts bordering vegetated wetlands that were delineated by Brooke Munroe, Environmental Scientist, Pinebrook Consulting. The proposed in-ground swimming pool is within 50' buffer zone. The current yard is lawn, so the disturbance would be to lawn area. The Applicant is requesting a variance.

Agent Schellenger reviewed plan. There is a proposed dewatering plan. There will be a set of plantings to mitigate disturbed areas. Also proposed is a backwash pit located where there is an existing well.

Vice Chair Roffey asked if there were any comments, questions.

Motion to issue variance to work within 50' buffer zone by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to close hearing and approve project subject to Special Conditions by: Edwin Heal

Second: David Mansfield

Vote: 4-0-0

Appointments – (None)

Discussions

Request for Certificate of Compliance for Monponsett Ponds (Western Basin), for Town of Halifax (DEP #SE175-0580)

Motion to approve and issue a Certificate of Compliance by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0

Request for Certificate of Compliance for Monponsett Ponds Halifax/Hanson, for Town of Halifax (DEP #SE175-0733)

Motion to approve and issue a Certificate of Compliance by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0

Outback Engineering, Inc., Restoration Plan for 42 Carriage Road

Restoration plan due November 20, 2023. A Request for Determination of Applicability with Restoration Narrative to be submitted for next Conservation Commission meeting.

Red Horse Farm LLC

Nicole Riley, Red Horse Farm LLC notified the Commission that they previously mowed the Bonney Hill Trail Meadows field. They are requesting to spread aged horse manure on the field in Fall and mow during the Summer. Ms. Riley stated that they would only agree to mow if they could spread manure.

Mr. Mansfield stated that the Commission is not sure this proposal would fit the idea planned and he would also like to wait until the Chair is present for input and decision.

Budget and Capital Improvement Committee Requests

FY 2025 Budget Materials due December 1, 2023. Requested: salary detail, FY2025 level service budget, Articles, and five-year Capital Plan documents.

Motion to support FY2025 Budget Information and Narrative Submittal by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to support FY2025 Outstanding Articles Submittal by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0

Green Hanson Potential Nip Ban; Discussion on hold.

Property Management Update; Trash removed at properties as needed.

Bonney Hill Trail Opening Day – November 18, 2023 with Rain Date of November 19, 2023.

Water bars, signs installed, meadow paths mowed, flyers posted for Opening Day.

Poor Meadow Brook; Trail cleared to river.

Webster-Billings; Removed downed tree on the trail, old sign post re-installed.

Town Forest; Removed downed tree on the trail.

Sleeper Conservation Area; Chipper remains, Conservation Agent to follow up.

Mowing Guidelines for the Meadows

1. Mowing should be done between September 15th and May 15th.
2. Mowing should be done from the “inside” to “outside”.
3. Blade height between 8” and 10”.
4. For Butterfly habitat: leave some areas (e.g. milkweed) un-mowed. These areas can be varied year to year. Manage some perimeter areas as “hedgerows”.
5. Frequency of mowing: every 1-2 years. Control of forbs, trees, and woody plants may require more frequent or earlier mowing. In general mow to the wood line to control.
6. For ground bird habitat cut material should be collected every 2-3 years.
7. Maintain close mowed perimeter trails. Post meadows **during nesting season** (May to September). No pedestrian or pet travel within the meadow and dogs must be leashed at all times.

Motion to approve Mowing Guidelines for the Meadows by: Edwin Heal

Second: Stephen Smith

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to approve Bill Powers to mow the Meadows at amount of \$3,500.00 by: Edwin Heal

Second: Stephen Smith

Vote: 4-0-0

Blind & Stand Regulations

Mass. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife

Hunters must mark stands and blinds with their permit number. Hunters must remove all stands and blinds within 30 days after the end of the permitted season. One non-hunting companion may accompany each permitted hunter. We prohibit non-hunting companions from hunting, but they can assist in other means.

Written permission of the landowner (on either public or private lands) is required to construct or use any tree stand which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire, or other fasteners that intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree, or that is fastened or erected in any manner and is emplaced for a period exceeding 30 days. This includes hang-on tree stands.

Motion to approve Blind and Stand Regulations by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0

Open Space Acquisition; No new update.

Old Business/New Business

Invoice for Public Hearing Notice (WH Express) 141 Pennsylvania Avenue, Map 84, Lot 2A-12A, **Notice of Intent-**
pending invoice submittal

Invoice for Reimbursement (Agent) Mileage – **signed**

Invoice for Reimbursement (Staff) Bonney Hill Trail Boundary Markers and Sign Installation Hardware – **requires**
vote and signatures

Invoice for Reimbursement (Staff) Bonney Hill Trail Lumber for Sign Posts– **requires vote and signatures**

Motion to submit Invoice(s) to CPC for payment submittal by: Edwin Heal

Second: Stephen Smith

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM by: David Mansfield

Second: Edwin Heal

Vote: 4-0-0