

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF JANUARY 24th, 2017
TOWN HALL, 542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA**

Called to Order at 7:00 PM under M.G.L. c 131, §40 and the Hanson By-Law 3-13, §5 and Rules and Regulations by Phil Clemons, Chairman, in Meeting Room A at the Town Hall.

Present: Phil Clemons, Chairman
Paul Andruk, Vice Chairman
Sharon LePorte, Member
Bill Woodward, Member

Absent: Brenna Audette, Clerk

Also Present: Laurie Muncy, Agent
Rebecca Nehiley, Administrative Assistant

Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2017: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Discussions

Un-authorized tree cutting at Arlene Street

Mr. Clemons reported that on Thursday 1/19/17, he and Laurie made a site visit to 89 Arlene St. in response to a call by a Ms. Margaret Knight who had a question about cutting down several large trees on her property, which has a shoreline along Oldham Pond. After meeting Ms. Knight there, they observed three stumps that had been cut recently. Using a tape-measure, they determined that the trees were out of jurisdiction. Ms. Knight had a letter from her insurance company recommending that the trees be removed due to their risk of falling onto her house.

While there, they also observed what appeared to be an asphalt berm at the foot the street that wasn't working properly as sand and sediments were washing down the street onto the "beach" area. Also observed was a catch basin within the road layout, with an outfall through a 12" culvert pipe discharging stormwater directly into the pond from which a small active flow was seen.

In discussion with Ms. Knight, she expressed concern with neighbors who perceive the privately owned beach to have public access. Mr. Clemons concluded that her concern, plus ours about untreated stormwater running directly into Oldham Pond, led to a very informal discussion about an opportunity that would provide mutual satisfaction. The result of the site inspection was to close out the file regarding the tree cutting and that the Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee and others consider the possibility of conveyance of a small parcel of land to the town to facilitate public access and stormwater management.

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MACC Draft letter to Gov. Charlie Baker regarding gas pipeline regulations (see attached)

Motion to sign and support MACC's Letter to Gov. Charlie Baker requesting that he end his support for interstate gas pipelines: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Articles for May Town Meeting

Article: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to replenish the Conservation Fund for open space management and related conservation purposes or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion to submit an Article to replenish the Conservation Fund: Bill Woodward

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Potential Community Preservation Committee application for improvements to the Poor Meadow Brook Conservation Area

Mr. Clemons proposed that the Conservation Commission consider applying for CPC funding to improve the public access area for the "Poor Meadow Brook Conservation Area." There are a lot of other things earmarked, but since this property was protected with CPC, it makes it eligible for further enhancement. As it is highly visible along Route 14, it would be an excellent opportunity to create an inviting "front door" to the large open space parcel. Initial rough estimates suggest a project cost of approximately \$10,000.00. If the Commission were to provide \$2,000 from its available funds, an application could be submitted to CPC for \$8,000. As partners, these two town boards could create an area for high quality passive recreation and educational experiences for Hanson residents and the visiting public. Mr. Clemons reported that applications are due in February and as such, he volunteered to prepare an application if the Commission was interested.

Motion to authorize Mr. Clemons and staff to prepare an application to CPC: Sharon LePorte

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:55PM: Bill Woodward

Second: Paul Andruk

Vote: 4-0-0