

**HOLLISTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 27, 2024
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Conducted by Remote Participation (Zoom)

Present: Ann Marie Pilch, Chair; Matthew Clark, Sneha Narayanan, Utah Nickel, Allen Rutberg, Commissioners.
Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent.

Absent: Eilish Corey, Vice Chair; Nicole Smith, Commissioner.

Ann Marie Pilch, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.
A. Pilch read the following into the record:

Pursuant to the Governor's July 16, 2022 Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c 30A paragraph 20, the Holliston Conservation Commission will be using remote participation for this meeting. The audio of this meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Town's webpage as soon as possible in accordance with keeping the public informed of actions during this meeting. I would ask that all participants remotely attending this meeting please state your name for identification purposes each time you speak throughout the meeting.

At this time, a roll call attendance vote will be taken.

M. Clark:	Present
E. Corey:	Absent
U. Nickel:	Present
N. Smith:	Absent
S. Narayanan:	Present
A. Rutberg:	Present
A. Pilch:	Present

1. General Business.

- a. Review of meeting minutes.
 - M. Clark noted that there was an incorrect date that the DPW discussion was continued until. R. Clapp will make that adjustment.
 - **U. Nickel made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/13/2024 as edited. M. Clark seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark:	Aye
S. Narayanan:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye

- b. Discussion: DPW drain pipe installation at Pinecrest Road.
 - R. Walker reported that at the end of the cul-de-sac at Pinecrest Road, there is an issue with water running off of the Conservation land into the road. During the winter, this causes a dangerous condition as it freezes. He is proposing to dig a trench and install a perforated pipe to connect it to the catch basin to improve drainage. All work would be within the grassed area.
 - The Commission expressed no issues with this project.
- c. Enforcement Order: #1569 Washington Street.
 - R. Clapp provided the background on this issue. The Commission had issued a Violation Notice on 1/10/2024 requiring a filing for the berm in the rear of the property and a plan for restoration of the expanded parking area within 30 days. No response was received until earlier today, when R. Clapp met with the property owner, who indicated that they were willing to comply with the filing and restoration, but would like to keep the storage containers stored in the parking area.
 - A. Rutberg expressed disappointment that the property owner did not respond to the Violation Notice, and A. Pilch noted that the storage containers should be removed.
 - The Commission decided to issue an Enforcement Order with the following terms:
 - Submit Request for Determination of Applicability for berm by 3/26/2024 to be discussed on 4/9/2024.
 - Submit restoration plan by 3/26/2024 to be discussed on 4/9/2024.
 - Inform the property owner that if these items are not submitted in time, that the Commission will begin issuing fines.
 - **A. Rutberg made a motion to issue an Enforcement Order for #1569 Washington Street with terms as discussed. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark:	Aye
S. Narayanan:	Aye
U. Nickel:	Aye
A. Rutberg:	Aye
A. Pilch:	Aye
- d. Correspondence received.
 - R. Clapp reported that registration for the MACC Conference will end on 2/28/2024.
 - R. Clapp reported that Elissa Landry of MassAudubon met at Broad Hill with Mark Kaferlein and Karen Sherman to discuss permitting requirements.
 - A. Pilch will be leading a nature walk at Wenakeening Woods on 4/27/2024.
 - R. Clapp noted that it has been difficult to schedule a site visit for the issues at Laurel Glen Court. The Commission decided to do a site visit on 3/4/2024.
 - S. Narayanan provided an update on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. She met with R. Clapp earlier today to determine best ways forward, and will be forwarding the information to K. Sherman. E. Corey will help with the map updates, and has contacts for the ADA Evaluation section. They will also need to get public input on the OSRP as well. A. Pilch noted that previously, the Open Space Committee coordinated the public input section.

2. Public Hearings/Public Meetings (beginning at 8:00 PM)

D-748: Request for Determination of Applicability: #129 Mill Street (Assessors Map 7-4-50).

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- E. Dickinson presented the project to the Commission. The existing septic system is failing, and needs replacement. There is a large wetland system in the rear of the parcel, and the proposed

septic system is located as far as it can be from the wetlands, and is within existing lawn area. No work is proposed within 50' of the wetlands.

- **U. Nickel made a motion to issue a Negative #3 Determination for #D-748: #129 Mill Street. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark: Aye

S. Narayanan: Aye

U. Nickel: Aye

A. Rutberg: Aye

A. Pilch: Aye

D-749: Request for Determination of Applicability: #115 Dodd Drive (Assessors Map 11-8-377).

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- E. Dickinson presented the project to the Commission. The existing septic system is failing and needs replacement. There is lawn that extends all the way to the edge of wetlands, and there is a significant amount of fill that was discovered while performing soil tests. The proposed system is in the side yard, and it has been designed to keep the two existing large pines in the side yard. No work is proposed within 50' of the wetlands.
- R. Clapp expressed concerns about the two adjacent pines and damage to the root systems. A. Pilch agreed, noting that there should be a fenced off area around the trees to avoid soil compaction over the roots. E. Dickinson will also have the contractor install steel plates over the roots.
- **S. Narayanan made a motion to issue a Negative #3 Determination for #D-749: #115 Dodd Drive. M. Clark seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark: Aye

S. Narayanan: Aye

U. Nickel: Aye

A. Rutberg: Aye

A. Pilch: Aye

D-750: Request for Determination of Applicability: #7 & 16 Pinecrest Road (Assessors Map 8-2-1.P & 56.P).

- R. Clapp read the legal advertisement into the record.
- R. Walker noted that there has been an issue with sediment buildup in the stream adjacent to #7 & #16 Pinecrest Road. In order to dredge out the sediment, several trees will need to be removed so that the water can flow, and that there can be runoff into the nearby pond.
- A. Rutberg asked if the pond can handle the inflow of additional water. R. Walker noted that the pond has historically remained below capacity, and can adequately store the additional water.
- A. Pilch requested that erosion controls be installed. R. Walker agreed with this request.
- **A. Rutberg made a motion to issue a Negative #3 Determination for #D-750: #7 & #16 Pinecrest Road. U. Nickel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark: Aye

S. Narayanan: Aye

U. Nickel: Aye

A. Rutberg: Aye

A. Pilch: Aye

- **D-745: Request for Determination of Applicability: #157-165 Lowland Street (Assessors Map 9-3-16.1).**

Continued from 11/14/2023.

- R. Clapp reported that the applicant had requested a continuance until 3/12/2024.

- **U. Nickel made a motion to continue D-745: #157-165 Lowland Street until the meeting on 3/12/2024. S. Narayanan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

DEP #185-957: Notice of Intent #157-165 Lowland Street (Assessors Map 9-3-16.1).

Continued from 11/14/2023.

- R. Clapp reported that the applicant had requested a continuance until 3/12/2024.
- **U. Nickel made a motion to continue DEP #185-957: until the next meeting on 3/12/2024. S. Narayanan seconded the motion.**

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

DEP #185-958: Public Hearing – Lot 1 Bonney Drive (Assessors Map 7-4-55.D).

Continued from 1/30/2024.

DEP #185-959: Public Hearing – Lot 2 Bonney Drive (Assessors Map 7-4-55.D).

Continued from 1/30/2024.

DEP #185-960: Public Hearing – Lot 3 Bonney Drive (Assessors Map 7-4-55.D).

Continued from 1/30/2024.

DEP #185-955: Public Hearing – Notice of Intent: off Bonney Drive (Assessors Map 7-4-55.D).

Continued from 1/30/2024.

- These four hearings were considered simultaneously.
- R. Truax presented the revisions to the plans for each house lot. As requested he has added wetland boundary markers to each lot, as well as the decks that will be in the rear of the houses. There are a few items outstanding in the stormwater peer review, and he noted that there will be some changes to the lot lines. He will resubmit plans with the amended lot lines for approval on 3/12/2024.
- **U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-958: Lot 1 Bonney Drive until the next meeting on 3/12/2024. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

- **U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-959: Lot 2 Bonney Drive until the next meeting on 3/12/2024. S. Narayanan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye

U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

- U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-960: Lot 3 Bonney Drive until the next meeting on 3/12/2024. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

- U. Nickel made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #185-955: off Bonney Drive until the next meeting on 3/12/2024. A. Rutberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

S. Narayanan made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 PM. M. Clark seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

M. Clark: Aye
S. Narayanan: Aye
U. Nickel: Aye
A. Rutberg: Aye
A. Pilch: Aye

*****All documents shall be kept in the Conservation Commission Office files*****