

TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS

Town House

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Conservation Commission

Judy McKinley Brewer, Chair
Ted Zebert, Co-Chair
Andrew Netherwood
John Cushman
Thom Page
Cindi Connors, Assoc. Member
Greg D'Agostino, Assoc. Member

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes June 16, 2021

Approved: July 21, 2021

Meeting called to order: 06/16/2021 @ 6:00pm

Members Present: Judy McKinley-Brewer Chair, Ted Zebert, Andrew Netherwood, John Cushman, Thom Page, Cindi Connors and Greg D'Agostino

Members Absent: none

Invited Guests: Matt Sweitzer, Craig Sweitzer, Pat Sweitzer and Kevin Conway

Also Present: Bonnie Geromini, Randy Rivest

Public Comment: None prior to start of meeting

Agenda Items:

Sweitzer Family Consultation, Howlett Hill: Matt Sweitzer came in to discuss property owned by his family on Howlett Hill Road that he would like to build on. He asked what details he would need to have on drawings to submit to Commission and was told that a detailed map of where he would like to build, place driveway, septic, well and any outbuilding(s). Judy questioned whether the stream there was intermittent or perennial and advised that delineation would be needed by an environmental consultant and permanent markers may then need to be installed. This was once turtle habitat and that may limit the build time as well as Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; (NHESP) review.

Kevin Conway, Parcel 4, South Road: Mr. Conway was invited in to discuss the current status and state of his project. He informed the Commission that he had rented a brush hog to cut the fence line in and put up new fencing and new turtle gate. He is taking down trees at the top of the lot so that part of the fence is temporarily down. The gabion baskets for the bridge/culvert over the stream were delayed but that is now complete. Judy advised that the turtle consultant, (Steve Riberdy) needs to be brought back to the property to review the fence before more work is done. Judy asked that Mr. Conway have Steve contact Bonnie via email once he has been to the property and reviewed the new fencing. Once that has been completed Mr. Conway will be notified that he is able to start work again.

Mt Vision property: This land has a conservation restriction and is managed by the Hampden Conservation Commission and the Minnechaug Land Trust. At the Annual Hampden Town Meeting, a motion was passed to encumber \$10,000 from the Community Preservation Act fund balance for "the purpose of excavation and grading of the entrance to Mt. Vision, located on North Road" The land trust has contracted with Heather Comee, an environmental consultant to review the project, which will be subject to storm water rules for the culvert and grading.

Andrew made a motion to accept the contract presented by Judy McKinley Brewer, and to use the funds approved at Annual Town Meeting as suggested by Judy McKinley Brewer. Ted seconded, all in favor 4-0, with co-chair Judy McKinley Brewer recusing herself from deliberations and vote.

Senior Housing Complaint, 26 Springmeadow Lane:

Complaint filed by neighbor and provided to us by Mark Stinson, DEP circuit rider. Some residents had cleared an area in the resource area to use for activity. Some leaves had been raked and logs moved too close, (within approximately 18 ft), to the Scantic River. No trees or saplings had been cut. Visiting Commission members and Commission staff had residents move the logs approximately 30 ft from the river. Basic conservation 'rules' were explained to residents present. Judy suggested that the Commission revisit the site in a few weeks to check for compliance.

Municipal Vulnerability Project, (MVP): Areas involved Main Street, Fisher Lane culvert, Big Brook, bridge at East Brook/Laughing Brook. Ted reviewed the project. Co-Chair Ted Zebert has attended these meetings, bringing information back to the Commission.

Juliano's Pool/Quinn/126 Steepleview Dr: This property backs up to a retention pond and it is being questioned if it falls within the Wetlands Protection Act. Wetland vegetation is present around it and has standing water in it and is within NHESP. John asked if there was an exemption for a pool and Just advised only if it is outside of the buffer.

With no further business, *Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm, John seconded, all in favor 5-0*

/clc