

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Angus, Chair at 7:04 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Angus (C), Kaplan (VC), Gerber, Hamin, Stein, Walker

**Absent:** Allen, Hamin

**Staff:** Ziomek, Ciccarello

**Others:** Chuck Dauchy, Don Peron, Mark D'Urso, Carol Gray, Scott Nielsen

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION**

**New Commissioner**

Briony Angus welcomed Todd Walker to the Commission.

**Approve Minutes**

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of June 10, 2009.  
(Kaplan moved, Gerber seconded)

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to approve the Conservation Commission minutes of June 24, 2009.  
(Gerber moved, Stein seconded)

**Peron Informal Discussion**

Don Peron in attendance; Chuck Dauchy presented proposed plans to construct a barn in riverfront area to the Commission. They are looking for guidance from the Commission before going further with plans.

**LAND Grant Application**

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to support the submittal of a land grant application for the Olendski parcel off Station Road.

(Kaplan moved, Stein seconded)

**PERMITS/CERTIFICATES**

**Request for Amended Order of Conditions (NOI 05-1009 – Cont'd from 3/10/09) - Levi-Nielsen for minor plan changes to Detention Pond 4P to reduce environmental impact at 650 South East Street (Strawberry Fields) (Map 17D, Parcel 24).**

- Opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 9:10 p.m.

Mark D'Urso presented for the owner. Carol Gray presented on behalf of the abutters and submitted a report with comments. Scott Nielsen addressed comments made by Ms. Gray.

**VOTED** (4-0-1), Angus, Gerber, Stein and Walker voted "Aye" and Kaplan voted "No" citing lack of information to close the public.  
(Gerber moved, Walker seconded)

**Notice of Intent – University of Massachusetts (Cont'd from 6/10/09) for construction of a Police Station in the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland located at 585 East Pleasant Street (Map 8C, parcel 13C).**

- Opened the public hearing at 9:11 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 9:23 p.m.

A representative of the BDG presented to the Commission.

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to close the public hearing and to issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions as outlined by the Wetlands Administrator.  
(Kaplan moved, Gerber seconded)

**Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (Cont'd from 5/13/09) – MA Department of Conservation and Recreation for approval of resource area boundaries located adjacent to the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst.**

At the request of the applicant, the public hearing will continue on July 22, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

**Request for Determination (RFD09-1164) – Amherst Conservation Department for removal of invasive vegetation at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment located at 525 South Pleasant Street (Map 17A, Parcel 50)**

- Opened the public meeting at 9:24 p.m.
- Closed the public meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Dave Ziomek presented to the Commission.

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to close the public meeting and to issue a negative determination for the work with the condition that only organic pesticide shall be used on cut stems if needed and that cut vegetation be removed to an upland location.  
(Kaplan moved, Gerber seconded)

**Request for Determination (RFD09-1163) – Amherst Conservation Department for replacement of existing bog bridging located off South East Street (Map 18C, Parcel 80).**

- Opened the public meeting at 9:30 p.m.
- Closed the public meeting at 9:32 p.m.

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0), to close the public meeting and to issue a negative determination for the work.  
(Kaplan moved, Stein seconded)

**MISCELLANEOUS UNTIMED ITEMS:**

**Discussion of Youth Cross Country Running Series at Mill River Conservation Area**

Dave Ziomek noted that he discovered the intention to use this area in the LSSE brochure. He is concerned with the impact this type of use will have on the trails and questions how to ensure that the Commission is contacted for permission prior to use. Dave will put together a Power Point presentation of all the conservation areas and the rules & regulations that the Conservation Commission has developed for each. The Commission can then review and update as needed and have a discussion on how to enforce the rules and regulations.

**Open Space and Recreation Plan**

The OSRP has been accepted by the Commonwealth which makes the Town eligible for park and land grants. Many thanks to Nate Malloy, Associate Planner, for his hard work on the OSRP. Nate will already be submitting a park grant next Wednesday.

**Johnson Conservation Restriction**

Dave Ziomek was happy to report that the 15 acre Conservation Restriction on the Johnson property closed on June 30.

**Tietjen APR**

Dave Ziomek indicated that he is organizing an event to celebrate the Tietjen APR and gift of land in Lawrence Swamp and will send out an email to confirm date and time.

**Puffer's Pond 2020 Subcommittee**

Dave Ziomek, Briony Angus and Elisabeth Hamin will review the first batch of CAFs received by people interested in serving on the subcommittee. We have still to hear from other town boards and committees (Planning Board, Select Board, or LSSE) about representatives to also serve on this subcommittee.

**Rolling Ridge and Harlow Drive**

Stephanie Ciccarello and Dave Ziomek visited Rolling Ridge and Harlow Drive and have requested that DPW and their contractor to button up (silt fences in poor shape, open storm drains that need attention). Cinda Jones is willing to donate land (and trail) to the Town between Harlow and Rolling Ridge. The challenge is that the trail goes through the wetland. Further discussion to take place at a future Conservation Commission meeting.

**Public Shade Tree Committee**

Dave Ziomek noted that the Public Shade Tree Committee will be meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss changes to their charge and will report to the Conservation Commission.

**Grants**

Dave Ziomek indicated that two grants have already been approved by Town Meeting and the committee process – a Park Grant (an Urban Self-Help Grant) to purchase the Hills lots (Article 20) and a grant for the Olendski parcel, for which the Conservation Commission has already indicated their support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 9:41 p.m.