

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Boice, Vice Chair at 7:07 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Boice, Allen, Clark, Brooks, Healey

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson stated a draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan was sent to the state for review. We received a review letter back from the state that had some comments we're addressing but it conditionally approved the plan through 2024. The conditional approval means you can apply for state grants using the draft OSRP, however, you can't get paid for any grants you receive until you finalize the plan.

Willson stated she went to the UMASS Ag Center on N Pleasant St. and walked the site with someone from UMASS facilities. They have staked the 100' buffer and all work for the barn project is outside the buffer. She also walked the field and found many wet areas, which she pointed out as needing delineation if additional work was ever planned. She added there will be a driveway for the barn but no parking, they are grading for stormwater drainage, and installing electric and sewer.

Willson stated she visited Lot 44 at UMASS where the Commission permitted parking lot solar panels. The vegetation on their drainage swale has still not grown in and they haven't worked on the NW corner of the parking lot. She met with UMASS facilities and they are going to do the work this week.

Allen mentioned that Hall Gould died. He had mowed the eastern side of Mt. Pollux which connects to his backyard. He stated we should consider maintaining the mowed area and maybe putting up a bench in his honor. Brooks thought maybe Atkins would donate or the South Amherst 4th of July Parade group, Gould was very involved with both. Allen also said he's doing the biothon if anyone wants to sponsor him.

MINUTES

No minutes to review.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Event on conservation land– Katy Winkler/Kestrel Land Trust for Nature Photography Workshop at Orchard Arboretum Conservation Area

Katy Winkler, Americore Coordinator at Kestrel Land Trust, stated they would like to have a photography workshop for up to 15 people at the Orchard Arboretum on June 10th. They have a naturalist photographer set up to run the workshop. People would bring their own photography

equipment and walk the conservation land. Willson asked if they are charging people. Winkler said yes, \$10. Willson added Kestrel has provided their insurance information.

Healey moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to permit the photography workshop at Orchard Arboretum.

7:20 PM Event on conservation land– Madlyn MacKillop/Kestrel Land Trust for Community Reading at Orchard Arboretum Conservation Area.

Madlyn MacKillop, Youth Education Coordinator at Kestrel Land Trust, stated someone from the Eric Carle Museum is going to read to kids in the arboretum. The kids and parents bring books. Parents would park along the south side of Spencer Dr., they're not expecting more than 20 people so 10 cars maybe.

Clark moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to permit the community reading event at the Orchard Arboretum.

7:30 PM Request for Determination– Amy Hamel for relocation of a barn within buffer zone to an intermittent stream at 42 Harris St. (Map 5C, Parcel 44).

Allan Weiss, Cold Spring Environmental, and Paul Hamel presented the project. Weiss stated they are moving a single car garage out of the 50' buffer from an intermittent stream. The current location of the garage will be restored with plantings. There is a large diameter 15' tall tree in the way that they will cut to stump/base but not remove. Hamel stated the original garage was never issued a building permit, so they have submitted the design plans for the current location which has been approved by the Town. It will have a dirt/gravel floor so will be pervious as it is now. Weiss stated erosion control will be used between the construction area and the stream.

Willson asked what would be done to restore the 30' buffer. Weiss said the gravel floor of the garage will be pulled out of the buffer, the loam that is piled will be spread and the area seeded and planted. Hamel added that much of the debris is on the neighbors property. Willson presented photos from the site visit.

Brooks moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to close the meeting and issue a Negative Determination #3 for moving the garage at 42 Harris St.

7:45 PM Event on conservation land– Anne Cann/Applewood Orchard Arboretum Committee for Arbor Day Celebration, Species Walk, and Progressive Tea at Orchard Arboretum.

Anne stated the Arbor Day Celebration is actually scheduled for tomorrow, it's for Applewood residents and any neighbors or others who want to come. The second event is a walk in the arboretum after a talk by a botanist during one of Applewood's Saturday morning talks. The third event is a tea where they stop at a bunch of gardens, this year they'd like to come to the arboretum. It may be 20 people or so.

Willson stated they all seem to have little impact on the conservation area. Anne added any event has to get permission through Applewood for parking. Applewood will provide tables and chairs, refreshments,

and audio equipment and they always remove everything. Anne said she would like the arboretum considered “no dog” area.

Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to approve the events at Orchard Arboretum conservation area for 4/27, 5/13, and 6/17.

8:00 PM Discussion - Draft OSRP

Willson stated we’re still looking for comments from the Commission on the draft. Clark said the plan states there is a need for a skate park and locations, he’s wondering the locations. Allen thought Groff Park good location for skate park. Clark supports ideas of trail expansion and increasing funding for Conservation staff. Boice said we need to do a better job maintaining our town owned land and taking full advantage of the parks, etc. Allen said we have three town commons where a lot of land is tied up that is really not used. Boice said Kendrick Park is so underutilized. Healey said she would like to see a playground downtown, in a corner of the common (Lord Jeff side) or Kendrick Park. Boice said there is a playground near War Memorial Pool that the Town would like to upgrade. Clark didn’t like the idea of a combination teen, senior, community center. Willson said if anyone has more comments please email them.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Two Certificates of Compliance– 103 Larkspur Drive

Willson stated there were two Orders of Conditions issued on the property, one in 1973 and one in 1981. The 1973 Order is very brief and doesn’t even state what it was for, but it got put on this properties title. The 1981 Order is the general, overall order for the construction of the roads and infrastructure for Amherst Hills subdivision project.

Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the 1973 Order of Conditions.

Allen moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the 1981 Order of Conditions.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to a meeting.

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:05 PM.