

Chelmsford Conservation Commission
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019
Approved May 7, 2019

Meeting Location: 50 Billerica Rd., Room 205, Chelmsford, Ma 01824

Members Present: David McLachlan-Chairman, Chris Garrahan, Chris Tymula, William Vines, Jack Souza, Mark Gibbs

Members Absent: April Mendez

Others Present: Katharine Guertin-Conservation Agent

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman McLachlan.

All documents referenced in these minutes are available for review at the Community Development Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford Town Offices Building. This meeting was audio recorded and hand recorded via the Recording Secretary.

Open Session / Citizen Concerns

No one came forward at this time.

Regulatory

Notice of Intent- continued

53 Parkhurst Road, new building construction

Brian Milisci, Whitman and Bingham Associates explained the revisions to the plans have been submitted, but engineering review is pending and the letter of approval has not been issued yet. He requested continuance to March 5, 2019.

There will be barriers installed along the wetland side of the property as requested by the Commission at a previous meeting.

Motion: by Mr. Gibbs to continue the hearing for 53 Parkhurst Rd. to March 5, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Souza. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Request for Determination of Applicability-new

Pond Street, kiosk area, bike racks and benches

Legal notice read. Steve Jahnle, Assistant Director of Public Works, explained work is 125-130 feet from the pond, and 75 feet from wetland. Some fill will be needed for grading in the trail right-of-way. Some boulders will be moved. The goal for the site is to have a kiosk, more bike racks and more benches. Work is expected to begin in the Spring. Students at Nashoba Technical High School are building the kiosk.

The Agent's report is on file.

Mr. McLachlan noted the recreation area floods in the Spring. The proposed fill will be in the parking area. There will be no impact to the water flow.

Tom Gazda of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee explained that the proposed work area is overgrown brush now.

There were no comments received from the audience.

Motion: by Mr. Vines to approve a Request for Determination of Applicability for Pond St. Beach with a Negative Three Determination. Seconded by Mr. Tymula. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Mr. McLachlan asked Mr. Jahnle about having DPW remove a tree at the Cranberry Bog Reservation. Mr. Jahnle advised he would try to get there.

Enforcement Order-update

36 Turnpike Road, resource area violation

Wetland Scientist Leah Basbane has been contracted by the applicant, and she now has the enforcement order and requests from the last meeting. Receipt of some items will depend on the status of snow cover.

Discussion

Land Management update

Mr. McLachlan reported that the Zoo New England project is progressing; a consultant has been hired by the Zoo, and several sites have been identified. Mr. Stanway has requested that printed copies of the maps be delivered to his house for review by those who could not attend the afternoon meeting.

Mr. McLachlan and Mr. Milisci of Whitman and Bingham Assoc. are still working on a proposal for the Cranberry Bog dam.

Conservation practices on Town land

Mrs. Guertin did research on hunting as previously requested by the Commission. Hunting has been recognized as a conservation practice since the 19th century to help habitat and wildlife control. Money acquired from fees is used to support wildlife and fisheries programming and hunting classes. Hunting keeps a healthy ecosystem balance. For example, deer can be seen as a threat to open space and vegetation, which encourages invasive plant species to grow in place of native plant species. Control of deer population also helps with tick-borne disease control. Hunting is also seen as controversial (anti-hunting public sentiment), and there is a potential for unethical hunters.

Massachusetts archery regulations were shown and listed. Archery season is held from October-January. Potential regulations for Chelmsford were listed.

If there was any interest a pilot program for October and November for no more than 2 people could be proposed on Oak Hill Reservation. Wearing orange could be required. Tree stands would be required because hunting is by archery only; gun hunting and nomadic hunting would not be permitted. A tree stand would be tagged to make sure only permitted stands are there. Stands cannot be moved, and must be well off the trails. The Reservation would not need to be closed. Hunters would be required to submit a bi-weekly report. If no deer are harvested, then there is no problem on the reservation. Towns with similar hunting programs were listed.

Mr. Garrahan asked if there have been negative incidents in other towns. Mrs. Guertin explained that the Town of Framingham has had no incidents except barking dogs, which were sent in by private parties to dissuade the hunters.

Mrs. Guertin was asked to obtain data from the Animal Control Officer regarding deer incidents in Chelmsford.

Mr. Vines advised that the proposed pilot program may not gain population control because not many deer are generally caught. He suggested speaking with an organizational group like the local sportsmen's club.

Continual Business

Agent's Report

Commissioners were asked to contact Mrs. Guertin if they were interested in attending this year's MACA Conference.

Mr. McLachlan advised he sent Mrs. Mendez an e-mail asking how she was doing, and whether she intends on returning to Commission meetings but had not had a reply.

Approve Minutes

There were no minutes to approve this evening.

Adjourn

Motion: by Mr. Tymula to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Mr. Souza. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian W. Merrill
Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:

-Applications and supporting documents for Notice of Intent and Request for Determination of Applicability Requests as listed above.

-Hunting presentation

Next Meetings

March 5th

March 19th