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**Pembroke Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of the Meeting of**

**July 17, 2017**

**Pembroke Town Hall, Veterans’ Hall**

*Disclosure:  These minutes are not verbatim – they are the administrative agent’s interpretation of what took place at the meeting.*

All materials presented during this meeting are available in the Pembroke Conservation Commission office.

*Open Meeting Law, G.L c. 30A § 22.*

Agenda – May include topics not reasonably anticipated by the chairman at time of posting of the meeting.

*Open Meeting Law, G.L c. 30A § 20.*

**Members present:** Richard Madden, Vice Chairman; Robert Clarke, Agent and Member; Arthur Egerton, Member; Scott Glauben, Member; Kyle Stenstrom, Member

**Members absent:** Andrew Stevenson, Chairman

**Staff present:** Rachel Keller, Administrative Agent

At 7:00PM, Mr. Richard Madden, Vice Chairman, opened the meeting, and asked all members and staff in attendance to state their names, and then stated that the proceedings would be made available to the public through video or audio broadcast on the PACTV Government Access Channel for broadcast at future dates and that all comments made in open session would be recorded.

**APPOINTMENT**

*Mr. Edwin Thorne, Town Administrator, to discuss Luddam’s Ford*

The agent informed the members that the town administrator was unable to attend the meeting; however, he had forwarded a report, through the administrative agent, regarding the proposed work at Luddam’s Ford. Mr. Thorne met with Mr. Steven Ivas of Ivas Environmental at Luddam’s Ford for a site visit and thereafter incorporated the following observations and recommendations into his plan to present to the North River Commission –

* Area 1 – has grown to the extent that it now harbors wildlife, acts as a natural rain garden and does not require any assistance or remedial care, e.g. cutting of vegetation
* Area 2 – full of invasive species. Two alternatives – one, do nothing; two, hire a specialist to remove all invasive species at a substantial cost to the town and replace that vegetation with non-invasive greenery.
* Area 3 – can be mowed on a regular basis. Thought that 2-3 years or regular mowing may eliminate the invasive species in the upland area.
* Area 4 – has been loamed. Hydro seeding should be scheduled for September. A notice of intent will be filed with the commission in the immediate future.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**Email from Eugene Fulmine**

The agent informed the members that this email was regarding P.A. Landers’s inquiry of MassDOT and the town about lengthening the period of time they can work on the headwall on Barker Street at the Herring Run. The town responded by recommending that they go to the Herring Fisheries Commission first and come back to the town with the commission’s response.

**Minutes of the Meeting**

A motion was made by Mr. Clarke and seconded by Mr. Stenstrom to accept and approve the minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

**ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Mowing of the trailhead at Bicentennial Trail**

The overtime for the DPW employees has been approved. Scheduling has not been decided yet.

**Keys for locks**

The agent asked which keys are being requested and suggested that Mr. Thorne be consulted before any keys are released. Mr. Madden said he is asking for the keys to the gates on conservation properties for Mr. Egerton and himself. Ms. Sharon McNamara, an audience member, asked to speak about the discussion. Her query focused on the fact that it is usually only town employees, not volunteers, who are furnished with keys to town properties. It was agreed that the request be forwarded to the town administrator.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) – Congress Street – Gordon**

Attendee: Noah Gordon, Pembroke resident and Boy Scout

Mr. Gordon described his Eagle Scout project as being basic trail maintenance and the reconstruction of two foot bridges. He shared photos and maps to show the members specifically where the work would be done. The trail runs from Congress Street by Marylou’s coffee shop and ends at Old Washington Street. Mr. Madden asked Mr. Gordon to also request permission from the North River Commission. Mr. Glauben informed Mr. Gordon about the need to obtain a building permit prior to the commencement of any work. Mr. Egerton reminded Mr. Gordon that it would be his responsibility to be sure the work he does is maintained by his troop.

A motion was made by Mr. Glauben and seconded by Mr. Egerton to accept and approve the project. All in favor. Motion passed.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Jurgen Keller for vacancy interview**

Mr. Keller introduced himself to the members and stated he had been in attendance at 7 commission meetings since February. He said he is in support of a community garden and a North Atlantic Cedar reforestation nursery. He informed the members that he has a construction supervisor license, 15 years of experience in carpentry and has knowledge about heavy equipment, tree service, fruits and vegetables, and landscaping. He is interested in bringing people together through work with the commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Clarke and seconded by Mr. Glauben to hear from both candidates and schedule a vote for the next meeting. Voice vote result was 2-3. Motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Egerton and seconded by Mr. Stenstrom to accept Mr. Keller’s application and forward it to the board of selectmen for consideration. Three members voted in favor of the motion (Egerton, Madden, Stenstrom). Nays were not requested. Motion passed.

**Mark Sotir for vacancy interview**

Mr. Sotir informed the members that he had been before the commission as an applicant on a very challenging project at 42 Prince Way. His professional experience includes business and municipal service as a firefighter and EMT. He has also been involved in the construction of homes, site work, and CDL truck driving. He stated that he is a decision-maker, a researcher, and he works well with other people. He is also involved with the Jones River conservation group. He is concerned about the relationship with Brockton regarding Silver Lake. He is interested in working within conservation guidelines while making the application process with the commission more streamlined.

A motion was made by Mr. Glauben and seconded by Mr. Clarke to recommend him to the board of selectmen for the vacancy on the commission. Voice vote result was 3 (Clarke, Glauben, Stenstrom) – 2 (Egerton, Madden). Motion passed.

**DISCUSSIONS**

**Little Sandy Beach erosion control**

Mr. Madden stated that the road runs into Little Sandy and it “silts up” every year that it rains. He would like to see the problem addressed in a different way. Mr. Glauben recommended that the town administrator/board of selectmen be consulted by concerned members regarding a new and better solution. Mr. Madden stated he will contact Mr. Thorne about it.

**Herring Run Park stove**

The administrative agent reminded Mr. Egerton and Mr. Madden that they agreed to encourage the Herring Fisheries Commission to submit an application to the Pembroke Community Preservation Committee for funding for the updates they desire on the building at Herring Run Park.

**Impending resignation of Chairman Andrew Stevenson**

A motion was made by Mr. Clarke and seconded by Mr. Glauben to direct the administrative agent to draft and send a letter to Mr. Stevenson thanking him for his service to the town through the commission. All in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Clarke and seconded by Mr. Stenstrom to close the meeting at 8:21PM. All in favor. Motion passed.

Materials and Exhibits

Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) and accompanying materials for Congress Street - Gordon

Draft minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting

Vacancy application – Jurgen Keller and Mark Sotir

Memo from the town administrator regarding Luddam’s Ford

Memo from the town administrator regarding the DMI

Email from Eugene Fulmine regarding the headwall on Barker Street