

**MILLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL/REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM PLATFORM**

February 1, 2021

The remote ZOOM meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dr. James Lederer, Chair.

The following members were present:

Dr. James Lederer, Chair

Carol Hayes, Vice Chair

Ed Chisholm, Christine Gavin, John Steadman

Scott McPhee (arrived 7:30 p.m.)

Camille Standley, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent:

Others present:

72 PLEASANT STREET – UPDATE

Dr. Lederer stated that he attended the January 11, 2021 Select Board meeting to discuss the downed trees and shelter damage at the Pleasant Street property. According to Dr. Lederer, the Select Board was very receptive to looking into the issue for the Commission. He explained to them that the Commission is supposed to oversee the ConCom properties but has no budget to maintain them. Mr. Michael Guzinski, Town Administrator, was going to look into getting estimates from some tree companies and he will work with the Commission. The Commission will also work on a more formalized plan.

(Note: The Commission was notified that the DPW had removed the demolished shelter, with only the foundation remaining. The downed tree was also removed. The Commission conducted a site visit on February 6, 2021. One fallen tree remains which effectively blocks the trail. This information was forwarded to Mr. Guzinski and Mr. McKay.)

UNFORESEEN:

114 UNION STREET DEVELOPMENT – ZBA

Mr. Chisholm updated the Commission on his concerns regarding the pipe and “ditch” north of the proposed site that flows northeasterly down the railroad tracks and into a wetland. The applicant has been made aware of the Commission’s concerns regarding ensuring that flooding in the area is not made worse. BETA will be reviewing the application and will address Conservation Commission interests/jurisdiction. (Note: In a review letter from BETA, dated February 2, 2021, the applicant was instructed to revise the plans to label the “ditch” as a stream as identified by the bylaw and to file a Request for Determination of Applicability with the Commission.)

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OTHER BUSINESS:

TANGERINI FARM – USE OF PLEASANT ST. LAND FOR FARMING

Mr. Steven Chiarizio from Tangerini Farm emailed the Commission on January 25, 2021, inquiring about purchasing or using Town property that abuts the farm. He was not available to attend the meeting.

Dr. Lederer stated that the land cannot be purchased, however, the Commission would be open to discussing options for agricultural use. Mr. Chiarizio will be asked to attend the March 1, 2021 meeting. It will be requested that he provide the required annual written cropping report as stated in his current license agreement (expires November, 2023).

CONCOM PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE/SIGNAGE

The Commission will work on developing a plan for the maintenance/signage of the Conservation Commission properties. Funding was requested as part of the FY2022 Budget.

CAUSEWAY STREET PROPERTY

Mr. McPhee, through the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust, learned of a property on Causeway Street that might be available for purchase. This property could provide a “wildlife viewing area” and other benefits to the Town. Dr. Lederer and Mr. McPhee will work together and get in touch with the owner.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Gavin, seconded by Mr. Chisholm, to approve the ZOOM regular session minutes from January 4, 2021 as written. By Roll Call Vote: Lederer – aye; Chisholm – aye; Gavin – aye; Hayes – aye; Steadman – aye; McPhee - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Gavin, seconded by Mr. Chisholm, to approve the ZOOM executive session minutes from January 4, 2021 as written. By Roll Call Vote: Lederer – aye; Chisholm – aye; Gavin – aye; Hayes – aye; Steadman – aye; McPhee - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Scheduled Conservation Commission Meetings: March 1, 2021
April 5, 2021

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Steadman, seconded by Mr. Chisholm, to adjourn the remote meeting at 7:55 p.m. By Roll Call Vote: Lederer – aye; Chisholm – aye; Gavin – aye; Hayes – aye; Steadman – aye; McPhee - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Standley, Administrative Assistant