

**MILLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Room 104, Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main St., Millis, MA
January 8, 2024**

The meeting was called 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, David Larsen, Scott McPhee, John Steadman

Others present: Thomas Cusack, 438 Union St.

**PLEASANT STREET PARK – DISCUSSION
THOMAS DOWNS, 178 PLEASANT STREET**

Mr. Downs was unable to attend. He will contact the Commission to reschedule.

**UNION ST./RIDGE ST. YARD WASTE DUMPING – INFORMAL DISCUSSION
THOMAS CUSACK, 438 UNION STREET**

Mr. Cusack requested an Informal Discussion with the Commission for clarification on “Conservation land” or “wetlands” near his property and that of his neighbors. Mr. Cusack expressed concerns over neighbors dumping yard waste/lawn debris/leaves, etc. into a potential “wetlands” area. He is worried about potential problems in the spring with mosquitos due to all the wet leaves.

After reviewing mapping in the area, the Commission determined that there were no wetlands in the area in question. The Conservation Commission has no jurisdiction for the area in question. The Commission thanked Mr. Cusack for coming into the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

**140 CAUSEWAY STREET – WINDY KNOB FARM, LLC
“FOREST CUTTING PLAN” - J. CLARKE, FORESTER – EMAIL**

In response to Mr. Clarke’s email, the Commission was just inquiring, for their information, how they were going to construct the temporary crossings to get the forestry machines in there. Within one year, the crossings have to be removed.

CUTTING OF VEGETATION AT REGENCY AT GLEN ELLEN

The Conservation Commission was made aware that there was unpermitted cutting of vegetation for a second time at the pond on-site. This action is a violation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Millis Wetlands Bylaw. It was further observed that the cuttings/debris were left in the pond.

On a motion made by Mr. Chisholm, seconded by Ms. Gavin, it was voted unanimously, with Mr. Steadman and Mr. Larsen recused, to issue an Enforcement Order to the Regency at Glen Ellen Condominium Trust (Attn: Jack Donahue) for unpermitted cutting of vegetation along the

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bank of the large pond on-site. A restoration plan shall be filed with the Commission on or before March 15, 2024, for:

- Restoring plantings with native wetland species and a written plan to prevent future violations.
- All cuttings/debris must be removed from the pond.
- Attendance at the March 18, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting is required.

APPROVAL OF FY2025 CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUDGET

On a motion made by Mr. Steadman, seconded by Mr. Chisholm, the FY2025 Conservation Commission budget was unanimously approved as written.

TREE REGULATIONS/BYLAWS – DISCUSSION

This item will be investigated further.

DISCLOSURE LETTERS

Commission members Mr. Steadman and Mr. Larsen, as residents of Regency at Glen Ellen, would like approval and authorization to discuss and vote on any matters related to Regency at Glen Ellen that come before the Commission. They each submitted disclosure letters regarding potential conflicts of interest. The disclosure letters outline the nature of any potential conflicts and the steps they intend to take to mitigate any undue influence on their decision-making process regarding the Regency at Glen Ellen development.

As the Select Board is the appointing authority for the Conservation Commission, they will have to approve such requests.

On a motion made by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Dr. Lederer, it was voted unanimously to recommend the approval of the letters by the Select Board. Voting on the motion were Dr. Lederer, Ms. Hayes, Mr. Chisholm, Ms. Gavin, and Mr. McPhee.

MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Steadman, seconded by Mr. Larsen, the meeting minutes from December 4, 2023, were unanimously approved as written.

Scheduled Conservation Commission Meetings: February 12, 2024
March 18, 2024

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Chisholm, seconded by Mr. Steadman and voted unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Standley, Administrative Assistant