Hopedale Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes

October 20th, 2020

Call to Order: 6.00pm by Marcia Matthews

Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Attendees on Zoom:  
Dave Guglielmi, Marcia Matthews, Becca Solomon.  
Clary Coutu, Director Environmental Services, Keolis Commuter Services; Matt Donovan, Fair Dermody Consulting (FDC) Engineers, Keolis Right of Way RDA; Holly Palmgren, MBTA; Chris Nadeau, Superintendent, Hopedale Highway Dept.; Tim Aicardi.

Note: Meeting minutes for 18 August 2020 were reviewed and approved by all members.

Nomination of Becca Solomon as chair approved unanimously.

**Items:**

Matt Donovan explained railroad vegetation management under CMR 11 Ş8 of the vegetation management plan. He showed a map with a ¾ mile stretch of tracks through Hopedale and 1/10 mile environmentally sensitive no spray zone. They employ a spray truck operator and an environmental monitor. Restricted zones are only sprayed at allowed intervals with Mass. Dept. of Agriculture Resources approved chemicals at intervals of five years.

Dave asked if we could have a voice at the table.

Clary Coutu replied that the 45-day comment period during operational plan review ended on October 9. She said Keolis would send an email and notification of monitoring next time.

Dave expressed concern about the proximity of the Charles River Watershed. He had discussed it with their general counsel and the watershed is okay with it. He asked about the right of way.

Clary Coutu referred him to Mass. Law 333 CMR Ş11 herbicide application.

Dave concluded that any work performed is not subject to the approval of our board. Becca reiterated that this is not within our jurisdiction and the Board made a negative determination of applicability.

**Certificates of Compliance**

Tim Aicardi requested a COC for 60 Mellen Street. The Board had an Order of Conditions dating back to 2002. The Board did a walkthrough to determine conditions were met. The as-built document and engineer’s letter were received. The Board voted unanimously to grant the Certificate of Compliance.

For Lot 15 Harmony Trail (#20 Harmony) Dave said he and Becca did a walkthrough. Becca located an OOC from 2000. All items have been met. Joseph Antonellis is counsel for the owner, Greene Mill Properties Natick. DEP#187-118 was received and a completed application and as-built plan. The Board voted unanimously to grant a Certificate of Compliance.

**Site Visit**

Chris Nadeau discussed Pinecrest Gully at Moore and Tillotson, where the Board conducted a site visit October 2. Dave said the land consists of 90 acres of open space presented to the town under Ch. 40 Ş8C. It was designed as a drainage system for the Pinecrest development, and maintenance needs to be done. There is a 30” culvert under the street. The water course was dry but full of fallen branches. Katrina Proctor of the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) had walked through previously and offered her crew to help clean it up at no cost to the town, clearing branches and debris out of the gully. Dave thanked Chris Nadeau for being the point person.

**Discussion and Selection**

The Hopedale Select Board had requested a Conservation Commission designee to serve on the Open Space Committee to create a valid plan. Dave nominated Becca Solomon. She accepted and the vote was unanimous.

The Mass. Association of Conservation Committees offers services and training to members. Membership for the entire board would cost $450, but an individual membership costs $75. The Board selected Becca Solomon to represent them as a member and will seek funding from filing fees collected. There is a young professionals committee that Becca could join. (Following the meeting, town administrator Diana Schindler informed the board that the filing fee account contained $18,000.) Dave will follow up. The Board will look up our fee schedule online and see if it is in line with other Conservation Commissions in the state.

**Items Still Pending**

An email was received regarding 4 Forest Path wants a walkthrough for a Certificate of Compliance. Dave will follow up to locate the file.

Chaplin 112 Dutcher Street pending DEP file number.

Popkin 116 Hartford Avenue needs a DEP file number.

Dave acknowledged former members Vanessa Calabrese and Sandi Tetrault for their excellent work over the years.

Becca adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Board’s next meeting is scheduled for November 17 at 6 p.m.

Agenda will be posted per standard posting requirements. Agenda will include call-in/zoom meeting information.