**Minutes of the BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM #1**

**December 21, 2017 7:30 PM**

*Present: Peter Delaney, Lana Spillman, Natasha Grigg, Frank Di Luna, Mark Mitsch*

*Absent: David Smallman*

*Others Present: Conservation Director Ross Povenmire, Minutes Secretary Judi Stickney, John Morin, Joe Reynolds, Mrs. Reynolds, Josephine Reynolds*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Meeting Called to Order:**

With a quorum present, Chairman Peter Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:33PM.

**7:33PM RDA 2017-18: 427B Ipswich Road, 14-1-21.3, Smith**

**Documents Submitted:**

* **Public Notice:** *Installation of a fence in the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands. All post holes will be dug by hand. After the fact authorization for portions of existing fence.*
* **WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability:** *Rodney Smith, 427B Ipswich Road, Boxford, Massachusetts*
* **Plan:** *Proposed Fence Sketch, prepared for Rod Smith, prepared by The Morin-Cameron Group, stamped by John M. Morin, dated 12/1/17*
* **9 Photos**

The Director read aloud the public notice and collected proof of abutter notifications. John Morin, of The Morin-Cameron Group, representing the applicant, met with the Conservation Commission with a Request for Determination of Applicability for an after-the-fact authorization for portions of the existing fence and the installation of a new portion of fencing in the buffer zone. Morin provided photos and drawings for the Commissioners to view as he made his brief presentation. During discussion, the Commission requested that two conditions be included in the Determination: 1) a 6” gap in the fence be included at the bottom of the fence along several places where it’s in the buffer zone, and, 2) that the Conservation Director inspect and verify the resource area, where the fence will be installed, before installation. Before closing, the Chair read aloud a letter from abutter Robin Katarsky, who opposed the installation of the new fence as well as the existing fence. After the reading, Morin requested to close the hearing.

At the request of the applicant and on a **MOTION** made by **Mitsch,** second by **Grigg,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to close the hearing for RDA 2017-18, 427B Ipswich Road, under the Bylaw.

**Continued: RDA 2017-17: 65 Boren Lane, 29-1-26, Reynolds**

**Documents Submitted:**

* + **Legal Notice:** *To remove an area of trees, remove patio and decorative wall, remove landscape island, fill sink hole, and replace above areas with lawn.*
  + **WPA Form 1 –Request for Determination of Applicability**
  + **Plans & Photos:** 
    - *Proposed Work, 65 Boren Lane*
    - *6 Photos*
  + **8 Photos**

Joe Reynolds met with the Conservation Commission to review the plans he is proposing to remove bushes, trees and other plantings, as well as fill a sink hole on his property. Reynolds provided the Commissioners with updated drawings to view as he made his presentation on the proposed work, which has been updated since the last meeting, to meet the requests and suggestions of the Commission at the last meeting. During discussion, there was a question on whether the trees could be removed from the naturally vegetated area and discussion ensued on whether the trees were mature or immature trees. Commissioner Spillman suggested that the proposed work may need a filing of a Notice of Intent, rather than a Request for Determination of Applicability. The Commissioners continued to discuss what proposed work would be allowed under the Act and Bylaw. After a lengthy discussion, the applicant requested to close the hearing.

At the request of the applicant and on a **MOTION** made by **Di Luna,** second by **Spillman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to close the hearing for RDA 2017-17, 65 Boren Lane, under the Bylaw.

On a **MOTION** made by **Di Luna,** second by **Spillman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to issue a Negative Determination, checking box 2 and 5, under the Act and the Bylaw.

**8:39 PM** **Discussion: Boxford Common Wetland Replication Area Construction:** The Director provided photos for the Commissioners to view as they discussed the wetland replication area with the Director, who had recently made a site visit. The Director described the photos, noting the straw mulch, the stream clearing channel, and other items which were topics in the status report submitted by Greg Hochmuth of Williams & Sparages.

The Director also advised the Commissioners that he had spoken with Rich Tomczyk of BTA-BOLT and they will be filing for the trail work they are proposing and will be coming to a future meeting to discuss again. A brief discussion ensued on the trails proposed for the area.

**8:51 PM Execution of Determination for RDA 2017-18**

On a **MOTION** made by **Di Luna,** second by **Spillman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to issue a Negative Determination, checking box 3, for RDA 2017-18, 427B Ipswich Road, under the Act and the Bylaw.

**8:52 PM Boxford Common Gift from The Morin-Cameron Group:** John Morin of The Morin-Cameron Group, presented an aerial photo of Boxford Common. Chairman Peter Delaney accepted the gift on behalf of the Town of Boxford.

**8:56 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a **MOTION** made by **Mitsch,** second by **Di Luna,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to go into Executive Session conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and declared that an Executive Session is necessary since an open public discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating, bargaining or litigating position of the Conservation Commission, and upon completion of the Executive Session to return to open session and immediately adjourn without conducting any further business.

**9:45 PM ADJOURN**

With no further business, on a **MOTION** made by **Grigg**, second by **Spillman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to return to open session and adjourn at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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*Judith A. Stickney*

*Minutes Secretary*