**Minutes of the BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM #1**

**January 18, 2018 7:30 PM**

*Present: Peter Delaney, Lana Spillman, Natasha Grigg, Frank Di Luna, David Smallman*

*Absent: Alan Fowler, Mark Mitsch*

*Others Present: Conservation Director Ross Povenmire, Minutes Secretary Judi Stickney, Nicole Kelleher, Randy Johnson, Carol Johnson, Lou Athanas, Laura Grabski, Mike Leonard, Jessica Grigg, and others*

**Meeting Called to Order:**

With a quorum present, Chairman Peter Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

**7:30 PM PUBLIC HEARINGS AND SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ITEMS**

* **Discussion: Nicole Kelleher of MassDCR on Emerald Ash Borer:** Nicole Kelleher met with the Conservation Commission to discuss the emerald ash borer and MassDCR’sproposed biological control program at Nason Conservation Land. Kelleher provided a PowerPoint presentation on identifying trees affected by the emerald ash borer, as well as what she and her team have proposed to trap and control the beetles on the Nason Conservation Land and other areas throughout Massachusetts. Kelleher provided pamphlets and an example of the emerald ash borer for those in attendance.
* **Discussion: Forest Stewardship Plan – Wildcat Conservation Area:** Randy Johnson of the Agricultural Commission, and Mike Leonard, registered forester of North Quabbin Forestry, met with the Conservation Commission to explain the Forest Stewardship Plan for the Wildcat Conservation Area. Johnson provided the Commission with a Forest Management Plan Agreement to review, as Leonard made his presentation on the process he is proposing for the management of the forest land. Agricultural Commission member Laura Grabski also contributed to the presentation. A lengthy discussion ensued. ConCom member Lana Spillman provided a lengthy document outlining her findings and suggestions for the forest management plan, as presented, and there was much discussion on that as well. After discussion, ConCom Chair Delaney suggested the Commission schedule a site walk of the area on Saturday, February 10, at 9AM, and they will discuss this again at a future meeting.
* **Extension 114-1176: 35 Lily Pond Road, 2-2-2.2, Epstein:** The Director advised that the Order of Conditions will expire in March 2018 and they are still in construction. They would like to extend the expiration to ensure they have time to finish construction.

On a **MOTION** made by **Spillman,** second by **Smallman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to issue a one-year, second and final extension, to Order of Conditions 114-1176, to expire on March 10, 2019, under the Act and the Bylaw.

* **DNI 2018-1: 9 Bare Hill Road, Quinlan:** The Director advised that the applicant is requesting a Determination of Negligible Impact for a gravel pad for the installation of a hot tub.

On a **MOTION** made by **Spillman,** second by **Grigg,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to issue the Determination of Negligible Impact for the installation of hot tub on a gravel pad as proposed, under the Bylaw.

* **DNI 2018-2: 21 Whitney Road, Dalissandro:** Michael Dalissandro met with the Conservation Commission to request a Determination of Negligible Impact to install a concrete pad and generator. The Director provided photos for the Commissioners to view as he made his brief presentation, on behalf of his father, the homeowner.

On a **MOTION** made by **Grigg,** second by **Spillman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to issue a Determination of Negligible Impact for DNI 2018-2, 21 Whitney Road, under the Bylaw.

* **Discussion: Emergency Certification for Andrews Farm Well:** Tim Murphy, representing the owner, advised the well is not providing the water needed to service the residents. He added that Rollins is working on the problem and they expect to dig a small slurry pit, as part of the process, but the work needs to be done as soon as possible to provide the water needed. Murphy advised they will install hay bales or silt socks, whatever is suggested by the Commission. A discussion ensued and the Commissioners determined that there is no documentation that this is an emergency, as they are currently running off of Topsfield’s water supply. The Director and/or Murphy will provide the Commissioners with the necessary documentation tomorrow.

**8:56 PM OTHER BUSINESS**

* **Boxford Common Tree Work Completion:** The Director advised they have received a price quote from Mayer Tree to finish work clearing trees at Boxford Common that had fallen across Jerry’s Run. Povenmire suggested that the Commission may issue a DNI tonight, to the Town, so the work can be completed there, while the streambed is still frozen. A discussion ensued and the Commissioners agreed to issue the DNI, with a completion date of February 1, provided the streambed remains frozen. If it’s not able to be completed by that date, they will need to file for an NOI.

On a **MOTION** made by **Grigg**, second by **Smallman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** to issue a Determination of Negligible Impact to complete the tree work over Jerry’s Run, with a completion date of February 1, under the Bylaw.

* **Request for Preservation Land Protection Act:** The Director asked the Commissioners if they would like him to send a letter of support for the Preservation Land Protection Act. They would and took the following action:

On a **MOTION** made by **Grigg,** second by Smallman**,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to support the extension of Chapter 97, the Preservation Land Protection Act.

* **MACC Conference:** The Chair requested that any Commissioner interested in attending the MACC conference, scheduled for March 3, send their information to the Director.
* **Invoice for Mass. Wetlands Scientists Dues: $45**

On a **MOTION** made by **Grigg**, second **Smallman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimouslytoapprove the payment of$45 for membership dues

* **Mosquito Control District Department of Agricultural Resources:** The Director asked the Commissioners if they would like him to send the opt-out request to the Mosquito Control District. The Commission agreed and the Director will send it out.

On a **MOTION** made by **Grigg,** second by **Smallman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to opt out of mosquito spraying and authorized the Director to send the required letter to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Mosquito Control District.

**9:07 PM PENDING ACTION ITEMS:**

* **Minutes Review/Approval:** After a brief discussion on the minutes, the Commission took the following action:

On a **MOTION** made by **Grigg,** second by **Smallman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of October 5, October 19, November 2, December 7, December 21, December 21 Executive Session, as edited.

**9:17 PM ADJOURN**

With no further business, on a **MOTION** made by **Grigg**, second by **Smallman,** the Conservation Commission **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to return to open session and adjourn at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

******

*Judith A. Stickney*

*Minutes Secretary*