

# HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

February 22nd, 2022

### DRAFT 1

Meeting conducted in person at the Hadley Senior Center and by Zoom as a Hybrid Event

\*This meeting was scheduled as a special meeting outside of typical meeting schedule\*

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Gary Pelissier (Chair), Edwin Matuszko (CPA Representative), Gordon Smith, Steve Szymkowicz, Ray Mieczkowski, Shyla Davis (Staff)

**Also Present:** Jane Nevinsmith of the Select Board, Paulette Kuzdeba of Knightly Rd, John Waskiewicz II of the Selectboard, David Fill of the Selectboard, Scott McCarthy of the DPW, Nick Cristofori of Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

**1. 6:30 PM** Gary began the meeting.

#### **2. Informal Discussion/Update on Knightly Rd Headwall Permit Application**

A file number from DEP had not been issued at this point, nor had abutters been notified or a legal ad been posted. A motion was made by Edwin to continue this discussion to the next scheduled meeting, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. This motion was seconded by Gordon, and all voted in favor.

An audience member noted the commission members verbally calling this a “Public Hearing” though it was not labelled as such on the agenda due to a misunderstanding pertaining to the status of the legal ad and abutter notice. Staff member, Shyla Davis, and engineer Nick Cristofori also explained that they were under the impression a file number was needed to consider a public hearing to be legally and formally such, which was corrected by Chairman Gary Pelissier. All was cleared up, and everyone reached understanding, moving forward with discussion.

A question from Paulette of Knightly Rd pertaining to the culvert and whether it would be cut back by a foot, and general inquiry as to road dimensions resulting from proposed plans. Nick addressed the question emphasizing goal not to reduce the paved area, but reducing the 1 ft area of non-paved area adjacent to the roadway. The goal is to balance disturbance of the natural resource area with reasonable road dimensions for traffic. Nick proposed one alternative to push out about 2 feet on each side to keep the road as wide as possible. Nothing is set in stone at this point and Nick was encouraged to bring this topic back to the formal hearing once it is scheduled, especially since finalized plans had not been submitted at this time.

Full sized plans were promised to be in-person by the following Tuesday (3/1), and the legal ad and abutters notice to be submitted in time for the March 8<sup>th</sup> hearing, regardless of DEP file number issuance.

A question from Scott McCarthy, acting DPW Director, came up pertaining to the progress of the construction as it relates to design and structure questions from the audience and commission

members. It was clarified by Gary that because finalized plans and specifications had not been submitted, there is not clarity on resource area impacts.

### **3. Administrative Updates**

Minutes for February 8<sup>th</sup> will be at the next meeting. Copies provided of the Annual Report Shyla submitted for review, and realized the way it was printed came out incorrectly and promised to provide properly formatted drafts. Steve did point out that 2 members of the commission left in 2021, not 1 as it was initially noted in Shyla's draft, which she agreed to change.

### **4. Upcoming learning opportunities**

Mass Open Space virtual conference, every Thursday in February, webinars 1.5 hrs with networking afterwards. Topics to include: ecology, finances, climate change, and social contexts within community. Free to attend!

MACC Annual Conference – registration now open. Webinars and trainings from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>. These are paid events, but all commissioners and staff are MACC members and get the discounted cost. Talk to Shyla about registering and remaining trainings/education budget.

### **5. Staff Updates**

Shyla also mentioned that a discussion will be coming for the application for APR land for Arthur West, something to look at in March.

### **6. Adjournment**

Gordon made a motion to adjourn at about 6:50 PM, seconded by Edwin, all voted in favor.