



TOWN OF

HARWICH

732 Main Street

Harwich, MA 02645

HARWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION - MINUTES

PHONE (508)-430-7538 FAX (508)430-7531

WEDNESDAY July 5, 2023 – 6:30 PM

TOWN HALL - GRIFFIN ROOM – HYBRID PARTICIPATION

Commissioners and Staff Present: Chairman John Ketchum, Jim Atkinson, Mark Coleman, Brad Chase, Sophia Pilling and Conservation Administrator Amy Usowski

Commissioners Absent: Alan Hall, and Wayne Coulson,

Audience and Representatives Present: Michael Lach, Mark Robbins, Ann Collins, Trudy Collins, Arlene Wilson and Bill Ionetta

Call to Order

Chairman John Ketchum called the meeting to order at 6:30PM and Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: Possible update on 374 Main Street property

Mr. Ketchum said Mr. MacAskill was not able to attend and will reschedule this to another meeting when he can be present and opened the matter for public comment. Having no public comment the Commission proceeded to the next topic on the Agenda.

Discussion and possible vote on State Land Grant application for the Six Ponds Great Woods Conservation Area

Michael Lach, of Harwich Conservation Trust, and Mark Robbins, of Cape Cod Conservation Trust, were present. Mr. Robbins discussed the grant application and asked the Board if there are any modifications.

Ms. Usowski noted a few corrections needed, such as an updated Commissioner roster on the signature page and suggested the Commissioner sign on an updated signature page. Mr. Robbins responded because this is not a legal document, Ms. Usowski could strike through the incorrect names and four signatures would be sufficient as majority of the Board.

Mr. Atkinson moved to accept the report for the State Land Grant Application for the Six Ponds Great Wood Conservation area and to authorize the Conservation Commission to sign the application as accurate representation of the property at this time. Seconded by Mr. Coleman. No further discussion. Vote 4-0. Motion carries.

The following applicants have filed a Notice of Intent

Karen C. Argus Revocable Trust, 109 Riverside Drive, Map 4 Parcel A3-A2. Proposed reconstruction of licensed dock.

Ms. Usowski stated the Applicant request a continuation to July 19th, 2023.

Mr. Chase moved to grant a continuance for 109 Riverside Dr to July 19th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Atkinson. No discussion from the Board.
Vote 4-0. Motion carries; case continued.

Gertrude Collins, 587 Pleasant Lake Ave, Map 110, Parcel C1-93. Creation of an on-grade path to water, pruning to create a view corridor and a small landing near pond. Continued hearing from 6/22/2023.

Ann and Trudy Collins were present. Ms. Usowski gave an update from Natural Heritage suggesting Special Conditions that can be added to the permit if the Commissioners see fit, but there will be minimal ground disturbance. She suggested flat stones under the legs of the proposed bench instead of a deck, which would require a Variance and recommended approval if flat stones are used. The Board and Ms. Usowski discussed the special conditions suggested by Natural Heritage.

Mt. Akinson moved to approve the Notice of Intent for 587 Pleasant Lake Ave, under the condition the proposed bench is supported by flat stone, instead of the original prosed deck. Seconded by Mr. Coleman. No discuss from the Board.
Vote 4-0. Motions carries; Notice of Intent approved.

The following applicants have applied for an Extension to their Order of Conditions:

Allen Harbor Yacht Club, 371 Lower County Road, DEP SE32-2390. Applicants would like a one-year extension to help further establish mitigation plantings.

Ms. Usowski stated the drought last year affected the mitigation plantings on this property and one more year is needed to allow the plants to be better established. She recommended approval of the one-year extension.

Mr. Atkinson moved to extend the Order of Conditions for a period of one year for SE32-2390. Seconded by Mr. Chase. No discussion from the Board
Vote 4-0. Motion carries; extension granted.

Discussion and Possible Vote:

Allen Harbor Beach Association: Request to put an approximately 50' long section of temporary 'Mobi-mat' over a beach path through the dunes that the association has beach access through. For mobility purposes.

Arlene Wilson and Bill Ionetta, of Allen Harbor Beach Association, were present and discussed their need for a temporary, one-season solution for handicap beach access while plans are being finalized for a

permanent solution and will come before the Commission again with an application at that time. She asked the Commission if the Association could use a Mobi mat measuring 50 ft x 3 ft with a 10 ft strip as a landing at the beach end.

Ms. Usowski added the Applicants would like to know if this can be done as an Administrative Review or an Emergency Certification for public health and safety reasons and she suggested the Association have a discussion with the Commissioners on the best course of action. The Applicants and Ms. Usowski discussed specifics of the Mobi mat placement to ensure there is no grading or vegetation disturbance. She recommended the walkway, but no landing at the beach end.

Mr. Coleman said he has no issue with the Mobi mats because foot traffic would be more detrimental. Mr. Chase said Administrative Review would be appropriate for this project. Mr. Ketchum asked how the long-term solution will deal with the moving sand on the dune. The Applicants responded those are details that are being worked out and not finalized yet. The Commissioners and Ms. Usowski discussed how to permit the project and if the landing could be permitted without a Notice of Intent or RDA because it is a new structure. The Commissioners determined an Administrative Review would be appropriate for the walkway and the Applicant can apply as through the Conservation Department staff.

Bells Neck Land Management Plan

Mr. Chase distributed the Water Control Plan draft to the Commissioners. The Board reviewed and discussed the Water Control Plan draft. The Board and Ms. Usowski discussed the next steps and agreed Ms. Usowski would work on updating the language in the next section, The Five Year Summary, and Mr. Chase would work on updating the site map.

Minutes

Mr. Ketchum stated he e-mailed edits for the June 7th and May 24th, 2023 meetings.

Mr. Coleman moved to approve the minutes, with edits by Mr. Ketchum, for the June 7th and May 24th, 2023 meetings. Seconded by Mr. Atkinson. No further discussion.

Vote 4-0. Motion carries; minutes approved.

Adjournment

Mr. Coleman moved to adjourn at 7:43pm. Seconded by Mr. Atkinson.

Vote 4-0. Motion carries; meeting adjourned.

