

Present: Bob Elliott, Chairman; Emily Boeing, Tim Dinsmore, Kris Masterson, Rob Rand, Peter Steeves, Pat Swain Rice (All Present)

1/5/2021 - Minutes

1. Public Hearings, Public Meetings & Appointments

A. None

2. Review Of Draft Minutes

A. Review Of Draft Minutes Of December 15, 2020

On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to approve the draft Minutes of December 15, 2010, as drafted Present)

3. Master Plan Implementation Update

Following the Master Plan Implementation discussion at the December 15 meeting, Terrasi provided the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) with a detailed summary of the Commission's input regarding the implementation items "assigned" to the Commission. Deb Fountain, who is the Commission's representative on MPIC, was not able to attend tonight's meeting but she will be attending future meetings and the Commission can provide comments or raise any questions for Deb at any time.

4. Conservation Administrator's Report

A. Twin Valley Farm - Vote And Release From Option To Purchase

In 2001, Twin Valley Farm was permanently protected under the MA Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Documentation prepared by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) as part of the APR included language giving MDAR and the Town of Pepperell Conservation Commission and Select Board the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value the property when the property is sold. There is an agricultural buyer interested in purchasing the property and the Option to Purchase must be exercised or waived by the State and Town before the sale can be finalized. MDAR has signed a waiver to release their rights to exercise the Option to Purchase. The Select Board will vote next week. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all VOTED: for the Commission to waive the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value the property at Twin Valley Farm.

B. Budget FY22

Terrasi informed the Commission that there will be a budget meeting with the Town Administrator and staff on Wednesday, January 6, and an update will be provided at the January 19 Conservation Commission meeting. A budget request has already been submitted to the MPIC to allocate \$50,000 to a land acquisition fund and \$30,000 for agricultural preservation in order to move forward with action items assigned to the Commission and the Agricultural Board. Implementation of land protection projects identified in the Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan cannot move forward unless funding is appropriated.

C. 148 Lowell Road - Article 97 Disposition

The Article 97 Disposition language for the property at 148 Lowell Road has been provided to Senator Kennedy and Representative Harrington. The town-owned property will continue to be protected under Article 97 of the Amendments of the MA Constitution once ownership is transferred to the MA Division of Fish and Game. Terrasi has been in contact with both offices and Senator Kennedy confirmed that he will follow up with Representative Harrington for a vote to move the legislation forward with the House and Senate.

D. Donation - Carl Hebert

Carl Hebert, a local volunteer who picks up trash, checks and reports stream level data from a stream gauge on Gulf Brook, and monitors several conservation areas in the Wheeler Street area, has made a generous donation of \$100 to the Commission. A letter will be sent to Hebert acknowledging the donation and his volunteer efforts.

E. Nashua, Squannacook & Nissitissit Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council Community Grants

The Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council has announced a new opportunity for small community grants for projects that will protect and enhance the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers. Details about the grant program will be added to the Town of Pepperell website. Terrasi and Ken Hartlage represent the Town of Pepperell on the Stewardship Council.

F. Draft Stormwater Bylaw

This item was not discussed due to several "moles" who joined the meeting and continued to disrupt the discussions.

G. Pepperell's Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

This item was not discussed due to the interruptions from several "moles".

5. Other Business

A. Request For Certificate Of Compliance - 11A Wheeler Road 259-691

A Request for Certificate of Compliance was received and a letter from a competent professional was received stating survival of the trees. Terrasi visited the site to survey for the 75 trees that had been planted. The trees were well established and of the 75 trees, only three had failed to survive. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all
VOTED: to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

6. Matters That May Be Raised That The Chairman Didn't Reasonably Anticipate

None

Respectfully submitted

Paula Terrasi/Conservation Administrator