

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
April 18, 2018
7:15 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL
472 MAIN STREET
Room 9**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Maitland, Amy Green, Jim Colman, Tim McKinnon

ASSOCIATE: Sue Flint

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Brian Butler, Oxbow Assoc.; William Clougherty, Mass. DOT, Dist. 3; Matthew Kearney, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.; Anne Herbst, MAPC

7:30: Presentation: Hazard Mitigation Plan (MAPC)

Anne Herbst, an environmental planner representing MAPC, gave an informational presentation about the need and preparations for an update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA's goal is that all towns in the state have an active plan. FEMA will help with the cost of culvert replacements to mitigate future flooding. Mitigating strategies are the main item of importance, as well as setting priorities for implementing those strategies.

This is Acton's second plan, the first having been developed and in place since 2010. Corey York, Director of Public Works for the Town of Acton, is the coordinator of the Town's program. A climate workshop is scheduled for May 9th at the Acton Town Hall, and he would like a Commission member to attend.

The final environmental plan will be reviewed by MEMA & FEMA. It will then be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the approved minutes. The following is excerpted from Ms. Herbst's notes:

"The State (of Mass.) is now updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan and integrating climate concerns. Through Corey York's efforts, Acton received a grant to do a one-day workshop for the Community to consider how predicted climate changes may impact Acton and its residents. MAPC will be working with Acton on that project as well. We hope a representative from the ConCom will attend. The local team that is working on the HMP will include results of the workshop in the final plan. When the committee is finished, (they) will ask again for comments from public. The draft plan will be posted on the town website and we will hold a second public meeting. After that there

are two levels of review-state and federal-that is MEMA and FEMA. Finally the selectmen must adopt the plan (which will then be in effect for five years).

8:00 Discussion: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Additional impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands have been identified that were not included in the original Notice of Intent. A Massachusetts Department of Transportation representative will provide information to the Commission, and is requesting direction as to the need to file an amended Notice of Intent.

Bill Clougherty, representing Mass. DOT and Matt Kearney from GPI presented the current situation to the Commission. In the construction of the bridge over Rt. 2A, sheathing was used on the Nashoba Brook side of the bridge ramp. There was some ambiguity about this sheathing being temporary or permanent. Mr. Clougherty explained that the sheathing would be cut back around the wildlife tunnel.

Ms. Green asked what was the change in the permanent alteration if the sheathing were to remain in place? Mr. Kearney responded that the permanent impact would be 196 sq. ft. and the land under water would be 262 sq. ft. Mr. Colman asked where the impact to land under water was located. Mr. Kearney answered that some of the impact area was once under water next to the bridge over Rt. 2A.

Mr. Colman said the Commission would need a "redline" change plan and a letter outlining the change in the plan noting that there was a major impact to the resource area. Also, the plan must show how the sheathing will be cut away at the wildlife crossing.

The Commission will schedule a sitewalk prior to June 6. The discussion will continue at the June 6 meeting at 7:20 PM.

8:30 Discussion: Like Structures

The Commission briefly discussed the topic of "like structures." They decided that it would be most productive to dedicate an evening focusing on just this one topic. Mr. Maitland announced that the Commission would meet at 6 PM on June 13th to continue the discussion. The latest draft from Mr. Colman would be distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting by Ms. Portante, Admin. Assist.

Certificate of Compliance: 41 Esterbrook Road, #85-535

Decision: Ms. Green moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance; Mr. Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Minutes: April 4, 2018: Reviewed by TM, PG, AG

Decision: Ms. Green moved to accept the Minutes of April 4, 2018; Mr. Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 PM

Terry Maitland
Terry Maitland
Chairperson

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AGENDA
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Note: meeting in Room 9.

7:15 Discussion: Like Structures

7:45 Presentation: Hazard Mitigation Plan (MAPC)

8:00 Discussion: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

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Certificate of Compliance

Quail Ridge DEP File #85-986 (pending)

41 Esterbrook Road, #85-535

Minutes:

April 4, 2018: Reviewed by TM, PG, AG

