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**TOWN OF GROVELAND
MASSACHUSETTS 01834**

BOARD: Conservation Commission
TOPIC: Monthly Meeting
MEETING DATE: February 10, 2021
MEETING PLACE: Zoom Meeting
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Dempsey, S. Bartelt, J. Gebauer, F. O'Connor
T. Schaefer
MEMBERS ABSENT: T. Grim, W. Formosi
GUESTS: None

Dempsey motioned to open the meeting at 7:03 p.m. on February 10, 2021.
Second by Schaefer. Voted: 5-0.

104 King Street

At the last meeting we had asked for regular updates every two weeks from the applicant regarding what's going on. This is a site that Formosi and Dempsey visited back in November with the owner and some neighbors and we are waiting for more information.

We had requested voting permits and had requested delineation and a few other things so the status reports are as follows on February 9th.

Atty. Deschenes said on February 9th after flagging the resource areas, his client engaged an engineering firm to survey and create a plan of the resource areas on the site for submission to the commission. This was to take four weeks. However, Atty. Deschenes didn't think the snow storm had created issues in that many of the flags are buried. The surveyor will be done on or before January 28th.

Dempsey reported that Mr. Bird has completed the resource area flagging at 104 King Street. Mr. Fiore contracted surveyors who originally surveyed his property and the wetlands associated with the RDA filed some time ago regarding a subdivision on a portion of the land. They expect to have the plan available in three or four weeks. Dempsey keep the commission informed as to their progress.

Atty. Deschenes said that on or about January 18th the wetlands were flagged. We were then going to have those surveyed with the ultimate goal of providing to the commission as was requested a complete site plan of the property identifying all the wetlands. We were also going to

provide as part of that plan a description of the ongoing maintenance that was being done on the property over the years as well as a proposed future maintenance plan. Mr. Bird did get out there on about the 18th. He finished up shortly thereafter. We did contact the land surveyor and they're going schedule and may actually go out to do some of the work.

We expect to have that plan completed sometime around the end of February. We did get that snowstorm which caused a little bit of disruption in the survey. Mr. Holt he feels that we can still be on track to try and get that plan completed and submitted to the commission on or about the end of the month. If not, then the very beginning of March. This has been our plan and that is what we have committed to you. I think we're staying on track. I sent you the report yesterday.

Atty. Deschenes said he didn't know exactly what the snow would mean but Mr. Holt has told him that it's not going to cause a big delay at all and we're still on track. I will certainly keep you informed regularly as to that progress but that is our intention is to get with you get you that information and then meet with the commission to discuss the next steps at that point.

Dempsey asked about the permits that have been pulled over the years for projects completed on the property. We asked the owner to provide this information and we haven't seen that yet. We'll be expecting that information. As far as the next steps on this project, the commission received a couple of comments from some abutters regarding what we're doing about this and a few other things. One of the comments was that we should file an enforcement order against the property. We may file an enforcement order or do something else but we're taking the steps necessary to gather the all the information we will need to address the problem.

Right now it sounds like we'll be able to get most of the information by our next meeting so we'll be able to proceed with the investigation and compare some of what we've got already with the new information that we received from the owner.

Department Consolidation

The department consolidation making up Zoning, Planning, Conservation and a couple of other committees into a single department has been approved by the Selectmen and will be managed by Rebecca Oldham, Town Planner.

How the commission operates and the jobs that we need to do will continue.

Do any commissioners have any questions about the department consolidation?

The Conservation Commission still operate as a separate entity because we're on a volunteer basis. Rebecca is not the commission's boss. She will be in charge of our agent and the day-to-day operations of the commission which are really separate from what our duties are. Our duties are primarily to make decisions and jurisdictional so I'm looking forward to working under Rebecca and having her help us out.

Hiring Conservation Agent

Bartelt, Formosi and Dempsey interviewed the applicant three weeks ago and they were very impressed with her. They expressed in interest in hiring her to the Finance Manager and he is moving forward on negotiations. We will hire her for 20 hours a week and possibly add 15 hours at Veasey Park and but first we need to look over our funds.

Minutes

Approve the minutes for December 2020.

Formosi did some editing on it and then we finalized it. Bartelt said she would like the minutes documenting that she filed a disclosure and it was approved the Board of Selectmen.

Dempsey motioned to approve and accept the minutes with additional edits. Gebauer seconds. Voted: 4-0-1. Schaefer abstains.

Schaefer motions to accept minutes to the January 2021 meeting with correction to Rebecca Oldham's name. Formosi seconds the motion. Voted: 5-0-1. Gebauer abstained.

Community Preservation

The committee met on Monday night to do the final approval on the proposals in three of the seven proposals.

On the first approval, it was for phase two accessibility at Veasey Park Project and this involves using some funds that we've already got left over from

Phase One. To complete one of the handicapped bathrooms down in the basement which will make a handicap bathroom on every floor as required and also put a ramp in outside to the backyard so that people have accessibility from the parking lot to the new hill view garden and backyard event area.

The second approval was our crosstown trail proposal which proposes to connect through Nichols Village Town Forest that new eight acre piece that we obtained through donation and over to Center Street in the Crane Pond Reservation

The third approval was for phase two of the weed and lily removal from Johnson's Pond. Rebecca Oldham told me that we got a ten thousand dollar earmark grant from the state towards the weed removal. Unfortunately it has to be spent before July 1st

Some money left over from Phase One of the weed removal was put in this proposal together for Monday and it was approved by the CPC so we should be able to proceed with removing the rest of the weeds in the pond that are where the boat launches are located at Veasey Park. We need to get someone before July 1 to actually do the work and put a deposit on it. The actual work won't be done until September but in order to reserve the dates you have to put a deposit so the ten thousand dollars will be a deposit.

We need to get our agent on board because we need our agent to take an active role in making all three of these things happen.

Dempsey motioned to open the hearing portion of the meeting at 7:29 pm. Schaefer second the motion. Voted: unanimous

268 Washington Street continued for GNOI

Dempsey said we will continue this hearing until spring. The applicant has hired a wetland scientist and they have to do a delineation because of what DEP said. Dempsey asked if anyone was online for this for questions.

Schaefer motion to continue this hearing for 268 Washington St. till March 10. Bartelt second. Voted: Unanimous

106 King Street-GNOI

Dempsey motioned to open the hearing at 7:32 p.m. Bartelt seconds.

Schaefer recused himself from this application.

There was a problem with the advertisement for this hearing because it didn't say if was a zoom meeting and it didn't give out the information on how to participate. Someone brought this up and we asked the applicant to re-notice the hearing and will just continue to the month of March.

Atty. Deschenes addressed the Board and mentions the deficiencies and asked to continue the hearing to March.

Dempsey moved to continue this hearing to March 10. Bartelt seconds the motion. Voted: 4-0-1. Schaefer abstains.

Dempsey made a motion to close the hearing portion of the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Second by Bartelt. Voted: Unanimous

Groveland Garden Club and Veasey Park

Members of the Groveland Garden Club will be working to make improvements on the outside of the main building putting in different gardens. Trees will also be planted and there may be some replacement of old trees in other areas. Once the new agent is hired we can get regular trail maintenance back on the agenda.

The MACC annual meeting is on March 6th and it's free to attend. Joey Wigglesworth had sent out some information on it to register. It's a zoom meeting.

Just a reminder that everyone needs to go on-line and take the Ethics Exam.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Dempsey at 7:45p.m., Second by Formosi. Voted: Unanimous

Mike Dempsey Jft
Conservation Chair

3-11-21
Date