



TOWN OF GROVELAND  
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**TOWN OF GROVELAND  
MASSACHUSETTS 01834**

**BOARD:** Conservation Commission  
**TOPIC:** Monthly Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:** February 13, 2019  
**MEETING PLACE:** Town Hall Meeting Room  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** M. Dempsey, F. O'Connor, J. Gebauer, T. Grim, H. Meninger  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** T. Schaefer, W. Formosi, R. Decie  
**GUESTS:** None

1. Gebauer motioned to open the meeting at 7:08 p.m. O'Connor seconds the motion.  
Voted: 4-0
2. Minutes: Gebauer moved to approve minutes from Dec 12, 2018. Dempsey seconds the motion. Voted: 3-0-1. Meninger abstains. Grim joined the meeting at 7:20 so he missed the vote. Gebauer motions to accept January 9, 2019 minutes. Meninger seconds the motion. Voted: 4-0.
3. Old Business:
  - a. Dempsey drafted a proposed 2019 Action Plan for Conservation Projects.

***Johnsons Pond and Veasey Park  
Current Status***

- Status of boulders at Lower Center Street (LCS). Is private contractor delivering and placing? Private contractor will absolutely be doing this to complete the process. We do not have an exact date, he works on his own schedule. The cost of doing it otherwise is too expensive. They did an excellent job thus far and we can't argue with free. We will try to contact him again and see if we can get them finished this spring. He is also going to work on the parking area improvement for us.
- Status of Veasey—what's done? What needs further capital? We have made much progress at Veasey in 2018 - We have the roadway and all parking areas paved and marked thanks to CPA funds. We have our new picnic area at the foot of the hill in place thanks to State funding. We have new plantings along the shore of Johnsons Pond. Our new boat launch is in place with a canoe storage rack available for seasonal rental space thanks to State funding

We have started removal of nuisance weeds and growth in the Veasey side of Johnsons Pond thanks to CPA and State funding. We commissioned a water quality and management study of the entire Johnsons Creek watershed from the Haverhill line to the Merrimac River.

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- Are we still on for Haverhill properties and assuming stewardship of the pond? We are waiting on a decision from Haverhill to officially abandon their use of the pond. Once we get word on that Groveland will take up the mantle to manage it. We will need some state money to help purchase the three properties from Haverhill when they are ready to sell. (1 in Boxford, two in Groveland)
- When will LCS OOC for 2020 be renewed? At the end of this year the Commission will adapt this to a 5-year management plan for Lower Center St.
- LCS Fresh “No Parking” street signage? The Town of Groveland will be hiring a new Highway Department Superintendent. We plan on working more closely with GHD to outline the needs at lower Center Street for more signage, better traffic control and other needs that they can address at that time
- LCS Other signage? Other improvements? At LCS we did provide new plantings, some signage and changes to the former picnic area, changing it to the Johnson’s Pond Overlook. This year working with the GHD, the Commission will develop a long-term plan for the area. New signs will be placed at the Overlook. We will decrease parking along the street and improve the existing small parking lot with the help of the local contractor. The most important need we have is a new culvert at the stream entrance into Johnsons Pond from Boxford and Haverhill. The culvert consisting of two undersized pipes needs to be replaced with an adequately-sized box culvert that would relieve flooding and improve water flow at the site.
- LCS Resident stickers? They will be considered as part of long-term plan for LCS
- Prohibiting gasoline engine ice fishing or limiting it to designated area off of Veasey? Hopefully Haverhill will abandon their control of the pond and we can take a comprehensive look at uses of the pond. We could do many useful changes using the watershed report mentioned above to protect the pond.
- Other issues  
We are pursuing a long-term plan to make a walking trail around the pond with help from Boxford.

**Plans-** Our Veasey Park and Johnsons Pond plans for 2019 include:

- Work to begin making Veasey Park handicap accessible
- Completion of the water quality and management study of the Johnsons Creek watershed
- Acquisition of a 3.5-acre parcel directly adjoining Veasey Park providing greater access to the pond and protecting wetlands. Completion of our new Veasey picnic area with signage, a kayak rack and flower planters
- Adding a second layer of small stones along the new Veasey boat launch area to prevent erosion

- New signage placement at LCS
- Begin long-term plan for LCS

### ***Town Forest***

Work with Essex County Greenbelt to complete the conservation restriction on the portion of the parcel we control and incorporate the additional 10-acre parcel into it.

### ***Meadow Pond Reservation***

Work with Fish and Game to complete appropriate signage.

- Partner with Bagnall Fourth Grade on trail work and pilot project for forest management on CPA- purchased portions.

- ***Center Street Greenway***

- Partner with Bagnall Fourth Grade on trail work and pilot project for restoration of gravel operation
- Develop specific plan for completion and final state of gravel operation area
- Replace stolen signs and install kiosk with Bagnall Fourth Grade and Open Space and Trails Committee
- Work with Essex County Greenbelt to incorporate additional 8 acres of former Bussing parcel into existing conservation restriction as voted by Selectmen and requested by NHESP for Community Trail and Firing Range mitigation.

- ***Small Properties***

- Work with Bagnall Fourth Grade on trail work, signage and trail development at all small properties as part of 3-year CPA grant.
- Small bridge at Meadow Pond needs serious modifications.

#### 4. Scheduled Hearings:

Dempsey motioned to open the hearing part of the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Grim second the motion. Voted: 4-0.

- 180 R Center Street- NOI/GNOI- Mary Rimmer and Mike Doucette were present to represent the applicant. Rimmer reviewed the comments to questions from the Conservation Commission and peer review. Changes made to reduce the access road for 24 ft. to 20 ft. and it will reduce the overall wetland impact. The tiny flood plain of 120 sq. ft. will be compensated for. Between replication and roadway the flood plain is 49.50. The turnaround area, 3 parking spaces and a detention basin have been eliminated. It is anticipated there will be 10 cars a day. There is a swale to keep people out of the reservoir area. Monuments will be placed. The roadway access road by the building is reduced to 18ft. from 20 ft. They will revegetate the riverfront area.

#### Peer Review Comments:

Waiver Requests-Seasonal waiver will not be needed. They will need a waiver for 100ft setback for access road and for existing clear area and near paddock. In the riverfront area, 10% alteration and improvements have reduced in the resource area.

Management Plan and Manure Management Plan- a 30 ft. dumpster will be placed and everything will be put in there.

Storm water Management- with grass swale detention areas and catch basins with sumps. Catch basins will be kept clean. Build up runoff will be infiltrated directly into ground.

Design of the crossing stream-Guidelines put out by DEP. You need to have 1.2 standard bank width. The benefit is you can put footings in to put in a span. An installation of a box culvert will be used since the overall impact is less in the area.

Dempsey said he was happy to hear the changes and improvements from the Peer Review. The last issue Dempsey is unsure of is the waiver address. He would like to have the peer review consultant be at the next meeting. He would like to know what the impact will be if there isn't a waiver. If we don't give a waiver for the road crossing, they won't be able to get to the property. They will be meeting with the Planning Board on February 19.

Dempsey motioned to continue the meeting for 180R Center Street to Wednesday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m. The motion is second by Grim. Voted 5-0. Hauss will email Decie regarding the meeting.

- b. 157 Main Street. NOI/GNOI - Dempsey motioned to open the hearing. Mark Jacobs did a peer review on this and Bill Holt will answer to the review. This 9 lot subdivision is coming off Main St. Northeast lot line is wetlands. The wetlands have been flagged with the except AB marker (missed). A concrete block wall will be put up to keep grading out of 100 ft. river front area. There is an increase of 10% of riverfront area. Work to be done on Lot 3, 4, 5. Holt will stake out the 100ft. area.

Dempsey asked about the wall on Lot 4. The wall will be 3ft.tall and will step down. It's a retention wall. The markers should go along the buffer between Lot 4 and 5 for a total of 5 markers. There will be a fence put up along Lot 4 up by parcel 475 ft.

Dempsey spoke about a construction bond.

Holt will submit a new plan with changes for the next meeting.

Dempsey motioned to issue a permit both DEP and local at 157 Main Street including bond of \$5000.00 per lot for Lots 4 and 5 within the buffer zone work. Total of 7 markers at 100ft. buffer at Lots 4, 5 and Parcel B. Meninger seconds the motion. Voted: 5-0.

Meninger moves to postpone Item 4. Gebauer seconds. Voted: 5-0.

Open Discussion:

Monuments and Fencing on 100ft buffer (post and rail fencing). Dempsey said we should strictly enforce no build zones especially for commercial.

Grim moves to adjourn meeting at 8:47 p.m. Meninger seconds the motion. Voted: 5-0.

  
Conservation Chair

  
Date

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