



Town of Groveland
Economic Development, Planning &
Conservation Department
Conservation Commission
 183 Main St
 Groveland, MA 01834

Michael Dempsey, Chair
Stephanie Bartelt, Vice Chair
Bill Formosi
Terry Grimm
Fredrick O'Connor
Thomas Schaefer

APPROVED 9/15/2022
MOTION: Grim motions to accept the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Formosi seconds. Voted: Dempsey, aye. Bartelt, aye. Grim, aye. Formosi, aye. Schaefer, aye. O'Connor, are. The motion passes.

BOARD: Conservation Commission
TOPIC: Monthly Meeting
MEETING DATE: August 10, 2022
MEETING PLACE: Town Hall and Zoom
TIME: 7:00 PM
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: M. Dempsey, S. Bartelt, F. O'Connor (Remote), T. Grim, B. Formosi

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: T. Schaefer
GUESTS: Annie Schindler (Environmental Program Coordinator (EPC)), Greg Wick (6 Merrimack River Road), Judith Kidder (Nichols Village), Kevin Cunniff, Mike Alesse, Damon Burt (106 King St), Jimmy Fiore, Frank DiLuna (104 King St), Robyn Wright (102 King St), Diane Plantamura (Mill St), Steve & Dena Dehullu (38 Benjamin St)

TOWN OF GROVELAND

2022 SEP 28 PM 2:31
 TOWN CLERK
 RECEIVED/POSTED

Note: Minutes are not taken verbatim, see the recorded meeting for verbatim information.

MOTION: Grim motions to open the meeting at 7:03 PM on August 10, 2022. Formosi seconds. Voted: 4-0. The motion passes.

Approval of July 13, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: Grim motions to accept the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes with the times of Grim's departure and meeting adjournment mended. Bartelt seconds. Voted: 3-0-1, Formosi abstains. The motion passes.

Groveland Town Forest Memorial Plaque

COMMISSION: Reads letter from Judith Kidder proposing a memorial plaque for Bill Bates in Town Forest.

Schindler: On the back of the letter, you can see a mockup of the plaque and a photo of the post is in our Power Point.

MOTION: Grim moves to allow the posting of this plaque in memorial to Bill Bates to commemorate his dedication to the trails and encourage people to maintain continue to maintain the trails in Town Forest. Bartelt seconds. Voted: 4-0. The motion passes.

Veasey Park – Landscaping projects

Dempsey: I would like to put a project together with Diane Plantamura to do some landscaping projects at Veasey Park. This would include fencing as well as planting of native species and landscaping work to remove invasive species.

Plantamura: I've been working at Veasey for a few years, it has become a Master Gardeners project and we are slowly working towards creating a full native garden. Right now, it is in a maintenance phase. Lately, I've been noticing a lot of invasive bittersweet has been encroaching upon the native species. My proposal is that we remove the invasive species, and replant native trees that would normally be in forests such as this. I'd like the Commission's blessing to continue to do research and put a plan together, probably a five year project, to "re-wild" the forest.

Bartelt: I'm very grateful for you doing this work, thank you.

Dempsey: Diane will work with Veasey to put this plan in place, and turn this into a written project and distribute it to the Commission to continue to move this forward.

Veasey Park – Washington Street parking

Dempsey: We talked to the groups who are using this area, and we think that putting 10 to 11 boulders where people seem to be parking on the grass could be a good temporary fix. I will be working with our Highway Superintendent to implement this project.

MOTION: Grim motions to place the 10 to 11 boulders at the bottom of Veasey Park/Nun's Hill to limit parking. Bartelt seconds. Voted 4-0. The motion passes.

38 Benjamin St Ext – Invasive Knotweed

Grim: So this is a multi-year plan, will there be any sort of bond in place?

Schindler: There is a bond on this project, but it is tied to the completion of the development.

D Dehullu: The lot across from the retention pond will be excavated so all of that knotweed will be removed.

Bartelt: Will you be doing this work yourself?

S Dehullu: Yes, we will.

Dempsey: We won't be issuing a Certificate of Compliance until this is remedied. This may cause an issue when you go to sell the house, but this can be ironed out closer to that time.

Schindler: In the listing for the house, you say that the lot has access through Town land to the Pond; can you please clarify what you mean by that?

D Dehullu: *Explains which parcel of land is being sold, and to ensure the new owner understands that the lot itself does not have frontage on the Pond.*

COMMISSION: Discusses how to ensure this plan happens, holding a Certificate of Compliance versus holding money in escrow to fix the problem.

MOTION: Grim motions to accept the Invasive Management Plan for 38 Benjamin St submitted August 10, 2022. Dempsey seconded. Voted 4-0. The motion passes.

O'Connor joined the meeting at 7:35 remotely. All of the following votes will be roll call.

MOTION: Dempsey made a motion to open the hearing portion of the meeting at 7:36 PM. O'Connor seconded. Voted: Grim, aye. Formosi, aye. Bartelt, aye. O'Connor, aye. Dempsey, aye. The motion passes.

Continued – 6 Merrimack River Road – GNOI

Dempsey: Bartelt and I went out to the site and think we came up with a good compromise.

Greg Wick, 6 Merrimack River Road: I took your advice and shrunk the shed down four feet, tried to cover as much of the existing shed as possible. We are also looking to use permeable pavement.

Grim: Is part that says “paved” is already paved?

Wick: Correct. The only equipment used will be a mini excavator, then haul off the materials and bring them back when it is time to back fill the foundation.

Discussion about expanding permeable pavement.

Dempsey: I’m in support of this application because it is removing something that was there and replacing it with something else, and we did get as much possible out of the 75 foot buffer zone. I think for an existing property this is a compromise I’m willing to make.

Wick: Hoping to get the foundation in before the seasonal restriction begins.

MOTION: Grim motions to approve this revised plan dated August 1, 2022 with the slight reduction in paved area at 6 Merrimack River Road. Bartelt seconds. Voted: Grim, aye. Formosi, aye. Bartelt, aye. O’Connor, aye. Dempsey, aye. The motion passes.

268 Washington St – GRDA/Update

Schindler: The homeowners were unable to attend tonight, but they have provided the Commission with an update on the restoration project.

Commission reads update.

Grim: Can you please just remind them that the seasonal restriction begins November 1, not the 15th.

MOTION: Bartelt motioned to continue the hearing on 268 Washington Street. Grim seconds. Voted: Grim, aye. Formosi, aye. Bartelt, aye. O’Connor, aye. Dempsey, aye. The motion passes.

MOTION: Grim motions to close the hearing 7:47. Bartelt seconds. Voted: Grim, aye. Formosi, aye. Bartelt, aye. O’Connor, aye. Dempsey, aye. The motion passes.

106 King Street – Invasive Species Plan

Grim recuses himself.

Damon Burt: *Burt gives a summary of the Management Plan.* We did not propose any work within 25 feet of the wetlands per the Commissions request. The monitoring has been ongoing as I’ve been doing the SWPP reports as well. We will have an update by the end of the year as to where we are at with the invasive plans. Only working within the purview of the current OOC i.e. the roadway, later in the project we will be working on other identified areas.

Dempsey: How successful do you think this is going to be?

Burt: Successful, as it is a housing development it will change the layout of the land as it will transition into maintained lawns. The seed sources are there and we will do what we can do keep them at bay.

Formosi: It seems like you’re going to make a significant dent in mitigating these invasive.

Burt: We will let the Commission know next year where we’re at and it should be at a place where things aren’t really going to be a concern for the new homeowners.

Bartelt: Would the Commission like a site visit?

Dempsey: We will schedule a date in early October before things get buttoned up for the seasonal restriction.

MOTION: Dempsey motions to accept the Invasive Species Management plan as submitted on July 7, 2022. Formosi seconds. Voted: Formosi, aye. Bartelt, aye. O'Connor, aye. Dempsey, aye. The motion passes.

Cunniff: Can I ask if T Grim will always have to recuse himself? My project is scheduled last on the agenda because of it.

Grim: It may be easier to just stay recused, but I will speak with the Board of Selectmen.

104 King Street – Restoration Plan

Burt: This is for a DEP File #00012177 for 104 King St. We worked with DEP extensively, they came out to the site, went over the plans with them in very heavy detail. It was approved on June 23, and we started restoration last Thursday on site. We've been monitoring the restoration work. We've started Area 1. We have not been able to plant anything given the drought conditions. We'll get this graded and loamed, but will request an extension to plant. We'll keep working and following the orders, and well send the Commission any reports we send to DEP.

Bartelt: Will this remove any paddocks.

Burt: Yes we are removing a few.

Dempsey: Annie when was the last time you were there?

Schindler: Two weeks ago, things have been allowed to become over grown per DEPs instructions.

Dempsey: We should schedule a site visit the same time with 106 King St.

Burt: We will also be providing the Commission with the same report we send DEP once it is ready in the fall.

Schindler: When will the work be done?

Burt: By this growing season, hopefully the end of fall.

Dempsey: For the site visit, lets shoot for the first or second weekend of October for a site visit. I also have a question about the GANRAD and needing to schedule a hearing on that. We have the filing and the DEP form, just want to constructively approved. We just need a check on that in order to schedule that.

Frank DiLuna: What is the purpose of the check when the DEP is doing the inspections for compliance, as the fee for the applications is to do inspections.

Dempsey: I cannot answer that as I would have to ask Town Counsel to get a full answer.

DiLuna: You can have Town Counsel call me. The whole premise of the fee is for services rendered.

Burt: The cost of the restoration activity is costing a lot, and we would like to keep costs low, a lot of work is already taking place.

Dempsey: But it is also a fairness issue for other residents in town. We have had other residents have to pay fees for work done after the fact.

Informal Discussion RE 3 Oakland Terrace Basketball Court:

Schindler: The homeowners were unable to attend.

Environmental Program Coordinator Update

Schindler: Things have been going well getting things ready to move offices. The official date is August 29th. There have been no new projects on the horizon, but the ongoing ones are going well. The only preconstruction meeting I had this month was for 55 Main St, the deck. I reached out to Lisa Chandler and there will be a Town of Groveland tent where I will be to talk to

residents about things going on in Town Hall. Additionally I would like to state that the state has declared level 3 drought and that residents should report sightings of the invasive spotted lanternfly, which have been found in Hampden County. Also, I think it would be good for the Commission to schedule a fall Lower Center Street clean up.

Dempsey: Add to the agenda for September to talk about a Lower Center Street clean up.

Open Discussion

Bartelt: I wanted to ask about the seasonal restriction and the purpose of it?

Grim: It gives us a little more controls over construction.

Dempsey: The ground is frozen and more sensitive, and things will run right off into the wetlands.

Discussion on seasonal restriction and the fees.

Dempsey: I would like to briefly revisit the fee for the GANRAD for 104 King St. Do we really want to push it?

Bartelt: I think it's only fair to other residents to may have to file after the fact in the future. How much is the fee?

Dempsey: It would cost around \$400 for the filing fee.

Calls, meetings, and upcoming projects

None at this time.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is September 14, 2022 at 7:00pm.

MOTION: Grim motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM.