

Medfield Conservation Commission

Town Hall · 459 Main Street · Medfield, Massachusetts 02052-2009

Medfield Conservation Commission

PUBLIC MEETING

Zoom

Minutes of Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 7:00pm

Members Present: Chair Deborah Bero, Mary McCarthy, Cat Scott, Michael Perloff, Bobby Kennedy, Kirsten Poler

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Interim Agent Bob Hartzel, Town Planner, Sarah Raposa (departed at 7:25 pm)

Others Present: Wayne Feiden, Consultant, Hilli Passas, Energy Committee

At approximately 7:00pm, Chair Deb Bero called the Conservation Commission meeting to order announced the meeting is being recorded, and performed a roll call for attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- George Darrell has resigned from the Conservation Commission. If you know of anyone who would like to be on the Commission, they can submit a letter of interest.
- All Conservation Commission meetings are remote; however, the office is still open. Please call ahead if you need to come in.

Informal Discussion Requestor: Wayne Feiden, FAICP (Consultant); Town Open Space and Recreation Plan Discussion Item: New iteration of Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

Ms. Scott forwarded Mr. Feiden's draft to the Conservation Commission regarding the OSRP new iteration and inquired what their thoughts were on this.

Discussion ensued on the prioritizing of land management for the Conservation Commission and OSRP. There were different examples presented regarding Conservation Commission parcels and having policies and procedures in place for issues or activities that may be brought forward. Conversations continued regarding the transition that the Conservation Commission has gone through over the past 3-5 years and how items/hearings have been on the agenda that have been prioritized throughout this transition.

Hilli Passas, from the Energy Committee, encouraged anyone from the Conservation Committee to participate in the Sustainability Goal discussion on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 for Medfield. Ms. Passes was forwarding the link to Ms. Bero for that open discussion.

Ms. Passas & Ms. Bero discussed having a meeting in the near future with Conservation Commission members and Energy Committee to discuss making land owned by the commission more sustainable.

Mr. Feiden shared his screen highlighting some of the areas for the Townwide Master Plan to see what the Conservation Commission would like to see happen from the actions listed in the plan. (page 41) He went through the highlighted areas with recommendations and benefits of what could happen with each action. Ms. Passas from the Energy Committee recommended the sustainability action (number 8) for the Conservation Commission and go into more depth with it. Ms. Bero agreed that sustainability should be adapted moving forward with all committees in Medfield.

Ms. Bero went into detail on what the Conservation Commission is responsible for and what she would like to see happen in the future with the budget, possible grants, and land management. Ms. Bero expressed her concern in the loss of wildlife in some of the Open Space areas due to the public uses. Mr. Hartzel advised the different ways that lists/funding that the Commission wants to be recognized/addressed can be incorporated into the plan as goals.

Mr. Feiden went more in depth about the Plan and a breakdown of some of the actions outlined. He went into detail about what the Conservation Commission could be focused on regarding the land already acquired and acquisitions to come. Mr. Feiden would like to come back and discuss the Plan and get some suggestions and opinions from the Commission.

Ms. Passas from the Energy Committee showed a presentation on climate control and the effects it is having in New England. She is requesting a letter of support from the Conservation Commission for the Climate Action Plan (TOMCAP). Ms. Bero requested information from Ms. Passas to send to the commissioners for reference before signing off on the letter of support. Ms. Bero would like the commissioners to have time to review the material and have the TOMCAP as an agenda item at the next meeting on January 19, 2023.

Administration

1. Commission Follow Up – Drafting, Signing, Recording

- Ms. Bero wanted to make sure that it was made aware that there may be an appeal for the case on Elm Street. There hasn't been anything that has come in as of yet, but the appeal deadline is longer on the Superior Court end.

2. Commission Follow Up – Inspection, Enforcement, Monitoring

NA

3. Commission Authority, Organization, Finances

NA

4. Reports

- There was information sent out in regards to Hinkley Pond and Wayne Carlson will be going out to survey the area to find the exact points of the parcel.
- There's a discussion about putting an "Emergency Tree Removal Plan" in place. Ms. Bero suggested reviewing Bedford's Emergency Tree Removal policy to get some ideas.
- There might be another group coming in to do the pond maintenance. Mr. Kennedy stated there are new applications coming in to be able to choose which will work best for the town.
- Mr. Hartzel has reached out to DCAMM again regarding the Fall Monitoring Report at Medfield State Hospital for the Wetland Restoration Area. He has not heard back from them as of yet.
- RDA request came in from the town for a water and sewer line. Mr. Hartzel believes that it is all exempt but he needs more time to read the RDA.

5. Staffing

NA

6. Issues

- Ms. Bero wanted to discuss the issues at Redgate Farm and others that are on the agenda, however these have to be pushed until the next meeting.

Adjournment – At approximately 9:00 pm, Mr. Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bero second.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0 (Ms. Scott, aye, Ms. McCarthy, aye, Mr. Perloff, aye, Mr. Kennedy, aye, Ms. Poler, aye, Ms. Bero, aye)

Respectfully submitted,
Cara Wise, Administrative Assistant