



## PETERSHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486  
978/724-3353 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax

### MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 6:00 PM BY ZOOM

**Members Present:** Bob Clark - Chair, Henry Woolsey, Ann Lewis, Mike Seitz, Anne Cavanaugh - Clerk  
**Guests Present:** Rebecca Faucher/DCR Quabbin Office, Mead Binhammer/Trustees

#### OPEN MEETING

The meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY (RDA) BY MEAD BINHAMMER/THE TRUSTEES - For the installation of sections of puncheons (bog boards), small bridges, and reinforced water bars on existing trails at North Common Meadow, Brooks Woodland, and the Swift River Reservation within the 100-foot buffer zones of bordering vegetated wetlands.** Notice of the RDA appeared in the Athol Daily News on February 22, 2022 and was posted to mytowngovernment.com. Today at 10:00 a.m. there was an off-site visit with Mead Binhammer at Petersham Town Hall to review maps and images related to the proposed trail repairs.

Mead Binhammer described a positive, significant increase in trail use by the public during COVID-19 in the last two years. With more use and increased seasonal precipitation, there's also been more erosion and compaction on existing trails, particularly in wetter areas. As a result, a small trails crew will begin repairs in the summer and continue into fall if needed. The crew will generally work on Thursdays and Fridays and probably begin in the North Common Meadow, moving onto other "trail units" as each "unit" is completed. All of the work will be done by hand and supplies will be walked into each site. A Trustees tractor may be used to carry the heaviest lumber as close to the work sites where possible. No trails will be closed during the work. It may be possible to include volunteers from the town in the trail work.

Mead's example of a bog board described how "each puncheon (bog board) section features three ground contact pressure treated 6-inch X 6-inch sleepers (one on each end and one as a center support) and two 2-foot X 10-feet (or 12-feet) rough cut pieces of hemlock or white pine as the decking/tread. The decking boards are spaced approximately 1-2 inches apart to allow water to drain through the bog board, preventing some ice formation on the surface in winter."

Rebecca Foucher/DCR noted that all of the East Branch of the Swift River is protected by the Watershed Protection Act and is under DCR's jurisdiction. This resource is protected by primary and secondary buffer zones. She recommended that Mead contact Allan Rentala at DCR to find out if the Trustees will need to file for an advisory ruling before repairing any trails near the resource.

**Mike Seitz moved to accept a Negative Determination of the RDA with the provision that the Trustees contact Allan Rentala of DCR regarding whether an advisory ruling is needed to proceed with any trail work near the East Branch of the Swift River. Henry Woolsey seconded the motion. The motion passed with Bob Clark, Ann Lewis, and Anne Cavanaugh in favor.**



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**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY (RDA) BY CHARLES BERUBE, 48 WEST STREET, PETERSHAM, MA 01366 - For construction of a driveway at a lot on Oliver Street within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Map 412 Lot 1-0.** Notice of the RDA appeared in the Athol Daily News on February 22, 2022 and was posted to mytowngovernment.com. Today at 4 p.m. there was a site visit with Charles Berube at the parcel on Oliver Street.

The lot is 12 acres. 9.77 acres are under a CR, leaving a 2.23-acre buildable lot. A small bordering vegetated wetland exists on the buildable lot. Approximately 20 linear feet of the proposed gravel driveway will fall approximately 10-15 feet within the buffer zone.

Charles Berube did not attend the public meeting. There was some discussion about who owned the CR and the direction of flow from the property's wetland. Mike Seitz was able to confirm that the wetland's flow is south and east. **The Commission would like to see a plot plan showing the wetland delineation, buffer zone, and proposed driveway before making its decision on the RDA. Public review of the RDA will be continued to March 15, 2022.**

**FOREST CUTTING PLANS** - None for review.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GOULD WOODLOT (2022-2031), MAP 403 LOT 38-0.**

Bob Clark noted that Harvard Forest used old parcel numbers on its Forest Management Plan instead of the Map and Lot numbers listed here. Bob stated that Harvard Forest owns the Gould Woodlot while the town owns the CR on it. Ann Lewis offered to scan the forest management plan.

**MOUNT GRACE MONITORING OF CRs ON GANSON & HALLBERG PARCELS (5/28/2021).**

Bob Clark stated that the parcels were monitored last May but the CR monitoring reports just arrived in the mail.

**PROPOSED DON FLYE CR** - No update.

**OUTSTANDING INVOICES - Barnes Mowing at Babbitt Sanctuary and Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Dues.**

Bob Clark said the Petersham Selectboard will pay the Barnes's invoice, but not the MACC dues. MACC dues will be paid out of the Evelyn Murphy fund. Bob gave Lindsay Mattucci/MACC Membership the list of our new Conservation Commissioners.

**REVIEW OF DCR ADVISORY RULINGS -**

- **ANR (APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED) PLANS FROM THE PLANNING BOARD - PLAN OF LAND ON WEST ROAD OWNED BY THE ESTATE OF RONALD E. EGAN 1/25/22 (MAP 201 LOTS 75-1 & 75-2).** The land has been subdivided into two lots to sell as housing lots.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS** - None.



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**Ann Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed with Bob Clark, Henry Woolsey, and Anne Cavanaugh in favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Cavanaugh