

Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission
Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011**

APPROVED

Members Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Gus Murphy
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

Public Hearings

Notice of Intent 8-605 69 & 81 Common St./Mento Enterprises, Inc.

Documents: Draft conditions dated December 20, 2010

Greg Bunavicz from Boderland Engineering was present. Mr. Bunavicz said that he reviewed the draft conditions prepared by staff and they have no problem with the conditions and agree to adhere to them.

Staff said the conditions included standard erosion control conditions, conditions to define the 25 foot no-disturb buffer and conditions to ensure the purchasers of the houses know about the porous asphalt and roof recharge units.

Mr. Flynn asked for public comment and offered the two abutters present the opportunity to read the conditions. The hearing was tabled while the abutters read the conditions and resumed shortly after.

Ed Dowd said that the test pit was dug at the highest point in the back. Staff said it was dug in the location of third house and pointed out location on plan. Mr. Dowd said that nearby elevations are lower and that test pits should be supervised in the future.

Mr. Flynn asked if the Commissioners had further comment. Ms. Francis said she is concerned about building in a wet area.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Hobin, to issue 8-605 with all conditions as noted. Vote: 5-0.

Other Business

Discussion with Ranger

Documents: Proposal for Kiosk Hour, dated December 28, 2010

The Conservation Ranger, Bill Grafton, was present to discuss his proposal for reimbursement for the additional hours spend building the kiosk. At the December 16th meeting, the Chair had asked for a written request.

Mr. Grafton passed out photos of the completed kiosk and said people have been using the maps available and people have been out there snowshoeing.

Discussion shifted to the conservation priorities topic (see below) and resumed to the kiosk proposal after the conclusion of that discussion.

The amount for the additional hours of labor to build the kiosk was calculated to be \$742.50 (55 hours at \$13.50 per hour).

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to expend \$742.50 from the conservation trust fund account for the ranger's additional hours building the kiosk. Vote: 5-0.

Plan for Conservation Land Priorities

Documents: Conservation Land Priorities

Staff said that she and the Ranger developed the list of priorities. Mr. Grafton has a list of what he will work on but this list is targeted toward discussions and decisions the Commission may want to have.

Mr. Flynn asked Mr. Grafton to clarify the "special use areas" he proposed for the South St. area. Mr. Grafton said he proposed that the west side of the area could be used for limited bow hunting as hunters would face toward the large wetland and not into any populated area or walking trails. On the east side he proposed a limited ATV use area. In both cases he proposed that those given permission to use the area also be required to provide service as stewards of the area. Mr. Murphy said that giving permission to use ATVs could create liability for the Town. Mr. Grafton said it was his understanding that as long as there is no fee being charged, the Town is shielded from liability. Mr. Murphy said he would want to hear that from Town Counsel.

Mr. Flynn said that he and staff met with Mayor Sullivan on the hunting issue. Mr. Flynn said he wants statistics on Lyme disease and vehicle collisions and is not willing to move forward on allowing hunting without the support of town officials. Staff sent letters to the Police Chief, Animal Control

Officer, Public Health Nurse and Health Department Director requesting statistics on Lyme disease and vehicle collisions with deer. Staff will schedule discussion of the results as an agenda item once the results are received.

Mr. Murphy said that deer population is a townwide issue and should be addressed on a townwide scale.

Mr. Flynn asked that the Commission members consider the list of priorities and whether they agree or have additional or different priorities and continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Request by Director to Consider Kiosk for Town Forest

*Documents: Request by Director to Consider Town Forest Kiosk
Dated: December 30, 2010*

Staff explained that the Department Director (Christine Stickney) requested that the Commission consider funding a request to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for a kiosk at the Town Forest entrance. Councilor Dan Clifford submitted the request for funding to the CPC but the CPC determined it was not eligible for funding under the Community Preservation Act provisions. Ms. Stickney wondered if the Commission would be interested in funding this proposal.

Mr. Flynn and Mr. Murphy expressed support for a kiosk at the Town Forest but were concerned that it would set a precedent if the Commission funded other projects.

Mr. Weinberg suggested that Councilor Clifford could request funding from the Council and/or beautification funds.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Ms. Francis, to deny the request due to issue of setting a precedent.
Vote: 5-0

Minutes

Documents: Minutes of 12/16/10 meeting

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to approve the minutes of December 16, 2010. Vote: 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Vote: 5-0.