

## Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

**Braintree Conservation Commission**  
Patrick Flynn, Chair  
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair  
Kevin Bears  
Heather Charles Lis  
Diane Francis  
Gail Poliner-Feldman  
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015

Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair; Kevin Bears, Heather Charles Lis, Gail Feldman, Diane Francis Alan Weinberg & Kelly Phelan, Staff

Absent: Donald (Gus) Murphy, Vice Chair

#### Public Hearings

None

#### Other Business

##### **Eaton's Pond Area**

Staff said the trail walk on May 16<sup>th</sup> went very well. Over 40 people attended. Mr. Bears was key in getting the word out.

Mr. Weinberg asked about weed treatment for the pond. Staff said that Aquatic Control Technology was scheduled to do an inspection the next day so that a treatment could be done over the summer.

Staff said there is an eagle scout who would like to do a kiosk. She met with the scout and his father. They are looking into a graffiti proof board used by the Norwell Conservation Commission.

The Commission discussed the potential for directional signage to the Eaton's Pond Area since many people don't know how to find it. The potential for a neighborhood access point from Commercial St was also discussed.

**APPROVED**

Mr. Flynn suggested the Commission revisit the idea for a brochure on the Town's open space areas. He suggested each member pick an area and write about it. Mr. Weinberg will write about Cranberry Pond ACEC. Ms. Charles Lis will write about Smith Beach/Watson Park and Fore River. Ms. Feldman will write about Pond Meadow Park. Ms. Francis will write about Town Forest. Mr. Bears will write about Eaton's Pond. Mr. Flynn will write about the Monatiquot River. It was suggested that Mr. Murphy could write about the portion of the Blue Hills Reservation located in Braintree (off of West St.). Staff will write about Cedar Swamp and Sunset Lake and coordinate the overall project.

## **Potential Conservation Land Acquisition**

### **White's Hill**

Members made site visits to view two potential land acquisitions. One property was the approximately 5 acre area donated to the Town as part of the White's Hill subdivision. The subdivision was approved by the Planning Board in early 2015. The land was accepted by the Braintree Town Council for open space purposes on January 20, 2015. The Town Solicitor had advised back in January that the Commission consider if they want to accept the land under their care and custody and if so, vote to accept it. If not, the land would remain as general open space or could be assigned to the parks or water department.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Francis, to accept the land donated to the Town as part of the White's Hill subdivision approval for conservation purposes. Vote: 6-0.

The Commission discussed the potential for connection through the land from the former Eldridge School to Morrison School to Pond Meadow Park. This route would follow the water tower access road, to the donated land, out to the new subdivision road and through an easement and a right of way out to Mayflower Road. From there access to Pond Meadow Park can be gained through a path behind the Morrison School.

The Commission agreed that neighborhood connections are important. People may want to access Pond Meadow Park without driving. The Commission will continue to work on implementation.

### **Taber Court**

The other property which members visited was the Taber Court parcel. Abutters to the property had attended the Commission's meeting in January to request the Commission revisit acquisition of this land. At the February meeting, the Commission decided to make a site visit in the spring to consider the request.

Mr. Weinberg said that he would be willing to ask the owner, Daniel Quirk, if he would donate land to the Town for open space. Members agreed that it was worth asking. It was noted by Mr. Weinberg and staff that an environmental site assessment would have to be done.

Ms. Feldman said that even if they can't get the land donated it would be worth pursuing. Maybe the abutters would contribute. She said the site could be a nice neighborhood park and a buffer

between the residential and commercial property. She also said that if the land could not be acquired that it should be rezoned to residential to avoid having equipment and vehicle storage on the river.

Mr. Flynn said the Commission should pursue the large commercial piece adjacent to the property. Staff will make an inquiry.

Staff noted that the Town owns property on the Monatiquot River on Commercial St. across from the end of Taber Court. Members looked at this property while visiting Taber Court. Staff suggested pursuing funding from Community Preservation to provide access to this piece. Currently the grade change and chain link fence prevent access.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Flynn noted that he is not able to attend Community Preservation Committee meetings. Ms. Charles noted that Mr. Bears had expressed interest.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Feldman, to appoint Kevin Bears at the Commission's representative to the Community Preservation Committee. Vote: 6-0.

### **Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2015**

Motion by Ms. Charles Lis, second by Ms. Francis, to accept the May 7 minutes. Vote: 6-0.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.