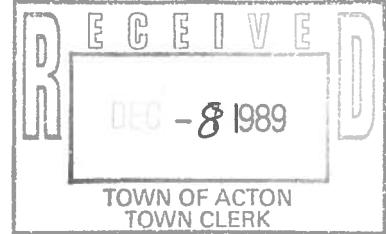


CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR
NOVEMBER 1, 1989



MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Sheehan, Ann Shubert, Pam Resor, Carol Place, Ken Dow, and John Chalmers

ASSOCIATES PRESENT: Sandra Mika

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR: Tom Tidman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andy Sheehan

VISITORS: Dan Danke, Larry Story, Dean Charter, Anita Dodson, Virginia Milbery, Phil Harris, Connie Sherman, Janis Cline, Richard Boast, Richard Mucci, Joseph & Rosemary Hryniewich,

8:03 The meeting was called to order.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

There were no citizens concerns presented.

BUSINESS

The Administrator reported that two of the scheduled hearings for this evening, Haartz Auto Fabric and Kennedy Estates, would not be held.

Kennedy Estates has asked for an extension and Haartz Auto Fabric failed to notify abutters.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission came in to discuss the so-called potato caves with the Commission. The caves are on Conservation Land, abutting the back of the Northbriar Subdivision. Most people had been under the impression that this was a potato cave. The Historical Commission feels otherwise -- they feel, as did their expert consultant Byron Dix, that this may be a Native American religious shrine, resembling a kiva as other groups of Natives have been known to build.

Mr. Dix felt that this shrine probably belonged to the local Nashoba Indians, who would have preferred a location similar to where this site exists. He also said that it is quite probable that white settlers also used this site, perhaps as a root cellar or storage pit for vegetables.

The Conservation Commission questioned Mr. Dix' theory on the nature of the cave, and asked the Historical Commission to present a written synopsis on this theory. The Conservation Commission, in response to a request from the Historical Commission, agreed that it would put up signs in an attempt to keep children and others out in order to avoid any more damage to the area and ensure safety to the public. The Conservation Commission also agreed, through Municipal Properties, to clear the area of brush and debris.

MINUTES

Ms. Place asked for comments on the minutes from September 20 and October 4 and 18. These minutes will be signed when the comments are incorporated into the them.

KENNEDY ESTATES

Mr. Dow moved to continue the hearing for Kennedy Estates until December 6, upon request of the applicant. Mr. Chalmers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9:00

NOTICE OF INTENT - Grassy Pond Conservation Area

Ms. Place opened the hearing under MGL Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Acton Bylaws.

The Administrator presented the application for the rebuilding of the trail system through the Grassy Pond Conservation Land, including 265' of work in the wetlands and buffer zone. The trail presently is accessible from the Commission's easement on Newtown Road. The Commission discussed clearing a path to the property from the Commission's access off Willis Holden Drive.

The existing boardwalk is rotten, and lays in the wetland. The proposed boardwalk would be elevated placing rough-cut 2 x 6 boards supported on pieces of utility pole, laid at the grade of the swamp. The proposed work will follow the existing trail and will not create any new disturbance to the wetlands or the buffer zone. The utility pole sections will be the tops of poles, which were not treated with creosote, and therefore will pose no pollution problem to the wetlands.

Area residents expressed concerns about increases in traffic at the area's access off Willis Holden Lane, and of pedestrian traffic across their private property. The Commission stated that public access must be given so that the lands will be used, but that the Commission cannot regulate people walking across private property.

9:35

Hearing no further comments, Ms. Place closed the hearing.

Mr. Sheehan moved to issue a standard Order of Conditions for the proposed trail upgrading at Grassy Pond Conservation Lane. Mr. Dow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Resor moved to name the Conservation lands along Nashoba Brook that the Commission received in the Bellows Farms PCRC as the Nashoba Brook conservation area. Mr. Dow seconded the motion.

MEADOWVIEW DEVELOPMENT

The Commission expressed concern about the damage to wetlands at Meadowview if the proposed plans were to be implemented. Another meeting with the Planning Board was discussed in order to see how disturbance could be minimized. Ms. Resor said that she would draft a letter to the Planning Board outlining the Commission's concerns about the size of the project and its potential impact. The Commission gave its support to her for writing the letter.

10:20

Meeting Adjourned.



Carol Place, Chair

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