



SUDBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting Minutes of Monday, February 27, 2023

Present: David Henkels, Chair; Ken Holtz, Vice Chair; Jeremy Cook; Bruce Porter; Kasey Rogers; Mark Sevier; and Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator

Absent: Richard Morse

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Henkels at 6:45 pm.

Minutes

On motion by Comm. Sevier to accept the minutes of the October 31, 2022 meeting, seconded by Comm. Porter, with Comm. Cook and Comm. Rogers abstaining, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

On motion by Comm. Porter to accept the minutes of the November 28, 2022 meeting, seconded by Comm. Cook, with Comm. Holtz abstaining, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

On motion by Comm. Porter to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting, seconded by Comm. Cook via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Extension Request:

Hop Brook Protection Association – Water chestnut Treatment, DEP#301-1283

Coordinator Capone stated that the Hop Brook Association has completed its third year of treatment. The first and third years were both very successful, with a minor setback in the second year. This year they hired a different contractor to do the work, and were provided with an end-of-year report. This is an extensive analysis of the watershed. Water chestnut seeds remain viable for up to 12 years. The project is multi-year in order to get the water chestnut population density down to a point where it is more manageable. The Association is requesting a 3-year extension to continue that effort.

She further stated that the Association currently has a Community Preservation Act (CPA) application in front of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). This is for the development of a full watershed-based plan to find hotspots and develop stormwater management features. This will be used for future implementation to help further clean the water within the watershed. The Association has done an outstanding job trying to protect this resource area. No negative impact has been expressed by the consultant or the community, except that the second year was not as successful.

Mr. Jeff Winston, President of the Hop Brook Protection Association, and resident at 180 Barton Drive, stated that the project is in its third year. As the second year was completely unsuccessful, they refused to pay, and changed vendors. This year, the new vendor has produced better results. The Association has only been able to effectively use two years of the time allowed by the permit, hence the request for an extension.

In response to Comm. Porter, Mr. Winston stated that the treatment service for the second year was ineffective and done incorrectly. The Association was not initially aware of this.

In response to Comm. Holtz, Mr. Winston stated that, after much discussion, they commissioned a watershed-based plan. They felt a top-down approach made the most sense. This will provide an assessment of performance, and will help to define future needs. The report will also help with applying for grants to fund subsequent work. Comm. Holtz added that if a different herbicide is to be used, the applicant should come before the Commission again.

Mr. Winston expressed his appreciation of Coordinator Capone, whom he described as being very helpful and supportive of the Association's efforts.

On motion by Comm. Cook to issue the extension, seconded by Comm. Holtz, with Comm. Porter abstaining due to his membership in the Hop Brook Protection Association, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Wetland Applications:

Notice of Intent: 58 Massasoit Avenue, DEP #301-1376

Chair Henkels re-opened the Notice of Intent hearing to demolish and reconstruct a single-family home within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from September 12, October 3, and October 17, 2022.

He stated that the applicant is still working through the Zoning Board of Appeals process.

On motion by Comm. Sevier to continue the hearing to the March 13, 2023 meeting without discussion, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Notice of Intent: 5 Hunt Road, DEP #301-1380

Chair Henkels re-opened the Notice of Intent hearing to construct an addition to an existing single-family house within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and the 100-foot Adjacent Upland Resource Area, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from October 17 and December 12, 2022.

He added that the applicant is considering substantial changes to the plan, and is addressing some of the issues highlighted by the Zoning Board.

On motion by Comm. Holtz to continue the hearing to March 13, 2023 without discussion, seconded by Comm. Rogers, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Notice of Intent: 150 Wayside, 80, 94, 100 Pride's Crossing, DEP #301-1383

Chair Henkels re-opened the Notice of Intent hearing for the after-the-fact filing to clear trees and create a pasture within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, continued from February 6, 2023. Mr. Scott Goddard, a professional wetland scientist with Goddard Consulting, and representative for the applicant, Mr. John Delli Prisco, was recognized for his presentation.

Mr. Goddard stated that the applicant is proposing to build a barn to be used for agricultural purposes and recreational activities associated with the Wayside Inn. Part of that will include the conversion of a portion of the land for patches of pumpkins or gourds. This will be on a portion of the site within the Buffer Zone. There will be a maintained path through the center for carriage and horse access to a barn in the rear and to the Inn property. By Wayside Inn Road there is a small intermittent stream that flows to the south under the road and into a pond across the street. A part of the site is within the Buffer to that area. There was a preexisting single-family house on the site. Access to the roadway that has been removed. The remainder of the Buffer Zone will be used for agriculture, stormwater management, or will be restored with the planting of native species and the removal of invasive species.

A revegetation plan is proposed on the eastern side and an invasive species management plan is proposed on western side. Native plantings will be planted once the invasives are cleared out. An updated invasive species management plan has been provided. It clarifies the species proposed for management, per Coordinator Capone's request at the site walk. It also specifies a seed mix for the pasture in the central portion of the site.

Within the pumpkin-gourd patch area in the northern portion of property, there is a relatively small area of Buffer Zone that is proposed to be converted from forest into agriculture. This use of the property conforms to previous practices of the Commission. Much of the Buffer Zone will remain preserved in a forested state. The fence now proposed along the existing field line is to prevent further encroachment. The clearing as it exists today is the maximum extent of clearing for the project. The project is viewed favorably by the Wayside Inn and its Trustees. The project will also be good for the Town.

Mr. Goddard further added that the applicant proposes that the Commission consider waiving the request for a Deed Restriction, due to the small area under consideration for conversion. Also, it is not appropriate for the degree of paperwork that would be needed.

Mr. Goddard concluded by stating that the applicant is seeking an Order for a partial, accidental after-the fact clearing of the area. Also, he is proactively seeking to do the pumpkin-gourd patch conversion and fence work, along with the relocation of driveway access to a location further from the wetlands.

Coordinator Capone stated that the seed mix provided is appropriate for horses, and as they are not native, the seeds are European grasses, not North American. This shouldn't be detrimental to the native species in the edge environment that was created. The intention of the owner is to manage the tree line. Given the site alteration, invasive species are likely to invade the forested area, so the Order should include a condition that requires the management of the space for a number of years while the area is being revegetated. Once the land is in full production and in pasture, the degree of impact will be greatly minimized. Until everything is stabilized, there is a need to monitor for invasive species.

She recommended that the Commission consider requiring a Deed Restriction as recommended by the Wetlands Bylaw. It was a forested area that was cleared, and the Commission didn't have the ability to evaluate it prior to its being disturbed. As the intent is for food production, it is not a big imposition to require a Deed Restriction to keep it in agriculture.

In response to Comm. Holtz, Coordinator Capone stated that a Deed Restriction would require the land to stay in agricultural use for 10 years. After that, any other purpose would require the permission of the Commission. A Deed Restriction would put any future owners on notice that the land would need to remain in agricultural use until it expires.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that the Act requires that \$300 worth of goods be produced from land considered to be in agricultural use. It is no longer considered to be in agricultural production if left fallow for more than five years.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Goddard stated that there will be a lot of effort made to work within the existing topography. The top of the hill will be graded for parking. The barn will be worked into the slope, with access out the rear for a walkout basement. Carriages will have access to the driveway at the top. In the central portion of the site, there will be minimal grading associated with the hill. There will be no grading in the Buffer Zone near Wayside Inn Road. In the pumpkin patch area, the only disturbance will be what's needed to remove the stumps. There will be surficial grading only in this area. There will be no imports or exports of soil.

Mr. Goddard stated that, with regards to the feasibility of a Deed Restriction, Mr. Priscoli does not have full ownership of the land where the pumpkin patches will be. There is a Use Easement over this area. The underlying title fee ownership is with other parties.

Mr. Priscolli stated that the pumpkin patch parcel was originally owned by him. He bought it specifically so that rear of property could be contiguous to other properties that he owned. The people that currently live there have no access to their backyard without a bridge. It was sold with the understanding that agricultural easement would exist in perpetuity. The same goes for the other fields. He owns some of this area in fee. The front 9-10 acres is all owned in fee.

He further added that the Commission can accomplish the same goal under conditions of the Order, extending every right as under a Restriction. They are not able to encumber third-party land. The original consultant marked the wrong cut line. Mr. Goddard added that Mr. Priscolli has the Wayside Inn parcel and the large barn parcel completely under his ownership.

Mr. Goddard stated that the pumpkin patch is split by lot line, neither owned in fee by the applicant. It is accessible only through the Easement on the back of the property. Mr. Priscolli added that this was to make all the parcels contiguous to the Wayside Inn property. There's no access for houses on Prides Crossing, other than access to the barn, which he has used for 40 years.

Coordinator Capone stated that she recognizes the uniqueness of the situation, and that she agrees that it could be addressed in the conditions without requiring a Deed Restriction.

In response to Mr. Goddard, Coordinator Capone acknowledged that one of the intents of the Bylaw language is to prevent subsequent conversion of land into residential use. However, the primary intent is to preserve the entire 100-foot Buffer Zone. Only in some instances will they allow forested land to be converted into other uses. If the Commission is to allow the conversion of forested land to agricultural use, they also want assurance that it will stay in agricultural use, which is the rationale for approving the removal of trees. Mr. Goddard added that, in this case, they already have an Easement that allows for only agriculture or forest, without exception.

In response to Comm. Sevier, Mr. Priscolli confirmed that he bought the two properties and implemented the Easement to accomplish his goals, then re-sold the front half. Mr. Priscolli added the encumbrance was disclosed and agreed to by the buyers. The wetlands act like a divider, so there is no way for those houses to get to the backland. The goal was to keep it in agriculture. That was why he bought all the houses and added the restrictions. The land can only to be used for forest or agriculture

In response to Comm. Henkels, Mr. Priscolli clarified that the agricultural easement is not a forestry-cutting plan administered by the Commonwealth. His goal was always to put the land to agricultural use. The wetlands divide the property in half. The back half is close to the Inn. His goal was to make use of the space for horses, agriculture, and as open space.

In response to Chair Henkels, Coordinator Capone stated that solid protections could be incorporated into the special conditions instead of a Deed Restriction. In response to Comm. Holtz, Comm. Sevier suggested that the agricultural easement by itself would meet the Commission's requirements. Coordinator Capone added that an agricultural easement would allow pasture, but the act doesn't consider grazing animals as agriculture. Breeding horses would be considered agriculture under the Act. A condition will still be required to bolster the definition under the Act. Comm. Sevier added that the goal should be to prevent the construction of a house.

In response to Comm. Rogers, Mr. Goddard stated that there will a perimeter fence around the entire zone, which will define the horse area and the limit of activity. This will protect the wetlands.

Mr. Shapanka, an abutter at 170 Wayside Inn Road who shares a 1,000-foot property line with 150 Wayside Inn Road, reiterated his complete support for the project, and is looking forward to its completion. He added that Mr. Priscolli can't purchase any additional land because the parcels are zoned for 5 acres.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Goddard and Mr. Priscolli agreed to continue the hearing, to allow for a review of the Agricultural Easement and the drafting of the Special Conditions.

On motion by Comm. Holtz to continue the hearing to March 13, 2023, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Notice of Intent – 116 Austin Road, DEP #301-1385

Chair Henkels opened the Notice of Intent hearing to replace a septic system within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw. Mr. Vito Colonna, of Connorstone Engineering, representative to the applicants, Mr. Godfrey & Hellen Zziwa, was recognized for his presentation.

Mr. Colonna stated that the project is for a septic system repair. The house is up by the street, on a larger parcel of land with a lot of backland in the rear. The backland is predominately wet and not developable. The currently developable area is along the street. There is an existing leach field in front of the house that was found to be in failure and needs to be replaced. It is close to the wetlands, about 10-15 feet from the edge. They propose to relocate it to the furthest extent away from the edge of the wetland. There are also restrictions imposed by other utilities. There is an underground electric line, a Verizon FIOS line, and a water line. They will relocate the FIOS but not the electric line. Other work in the Buffer Zone will include the replacement of tanks. All the work takes place in disturbed area. There is an ornamental tree to be removed, which is about 2 inches in diameter. No large natural trees will be disturbed. Erosion controls will be installed around the perimeter, and a silt sack will be placed in a catch basin in the front.

Coordinator Capone stated that this is the best that could be designed. The site is mostly forested, and the project will only be an improvement to existing conditions. The existing septic is 15 feet from the wetlands and in failure. She expressed no concerns with the proposal. The Board of Health has approved the design.

There were no public comments.

On motion by Comm. Sevier to close the Hearing, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Coordinator Capone stated that the Special Conditions will be standard for this type of project, except that they will not include mitigation, as there will be no impact to the resource area.

On motion by Comm. Sevier to issue the Order of Conditions, seconded by Comm. Rogers, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 173 Union Avenue, #23-2

Chair Henkels stated that the applicant, Flatiron Investments LLC, has requested that the application for the project to expand a septic system within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw, be withdrawn.

On motion by Comm. Rogers to accept the withdrawal, seconded by Comm. Sevier, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Notice of Intent: 46 Eddy Street, DEP #301-1386

Chair Henkels opened the Notice of Intent hearing to construct an addition and fence within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and 200-foot Riverfront Area, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw. Mrs. Chunyong Lin, applicant, was recognized for her presentation.

Mrs. Lin stated that they are planning an addition, which will include a new basement and great room on the west side of house, within the 200-foot Riverfront Area. She agrees to include mitigation as part of this project, per the suggestion of the Conservation Coordinator.

Coordinator Capone stated that the Sudbury River forms the rear property line. The existing house is within the outer riparian zone. The entire property is within the Riverfront. The inner riparian zone is mostly undisturbed. A metal fence marks the edge of the existing lawn. Everything else is forested toward the back of the lot. The addition is 20 x 24, is in the outer riparian, and is in the existing lawn area.

She added that the mitigation area is in the area where the lawn bows out closer to the river, and is in inner riparian zone. If they replant 500 square feet, this equates roughly to the footprint of the addition. This will restore the intact inner riparian zone and accommodate the new impervious surfaces. Another strategy would be to install gutters, but the area is fairly flat, so roof runoff will infiltrate into the ground. It is not necessary to mitigate since it is so far from the river. Other than impervious surface, they are not introducing a new intrusion into the Riverfront Area.

In response to Comm. Rogers, Mr. Eduard Nasybulin, resident at 46 Eddy Street, stated the addition will allow for bigger windows, which in turn will improve the view from the house. Additionally, they want to save the existing windows on the first and second floor, which would need to otherwise be demolished. The new structure will be very close to the existing shed, which is in flat land without anything growing. The shed will be moved as part of this project. Ms. Lin added that the shed will be moved away from the river and closer to the driveway. Coordinator Capone stated that the shed would be exempt as long as it is more than 50' from the river.

Ms. Lin stated that she would provide an updated floor plan, and ask her engineer to move the shed as instructed by Coordinator Capone.

There were no public comments.

On motion by Comm. Porter to close the Hearing, seconded by Comm. Sevier, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Coordinator Capone stated the Order will include a condition for the shed. The Contractor will install straw wattles to contain exposed soils to prevent them from migrating towards the river. The conditions articulate the mitigation, with removal and replanting of lawn with 5 trees or 20 shrubs, or a similar combination, to cover 500 square feet of existing lawn. No dewatering is allowed. Access to the addition will be from the front of the property.

On motion by Comm. Cook to issue the Order of Conditions, seconded by Comm. Sevier, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Notice of Intent – Harveys Farm Lane, DEP #301-1387

Chair Henkels opened the Notice of Intent hearing to improve the roadway within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw.

Coordinator Capone state that this project was in front of Commission in 1999 when the roadway construction was approved. A Certificate of Compliance was issued in 2005. For the last 13+ years property, was left unmaintained, and the area is overgrown, mostly with invasives. The stormwater system has not been maintained, and is also overgrown. They applicant proposes to upgrade this.

She added that this exact proposal was in front of the Commission as a Request for Determination of Applicability, and that a positive Determination was issued. Because of the degraded stated of driveway and the amount of vegetation removal, this was required to bring it up to useable standards.

She added that the expansion itself is not of concern, but rather the work to clear the area and bring it back to original standards. The project has been reviewed by the Planning Office for a stormwater permit. It is believed that it was reviewed and approved as a minor change to the original design. The houses are outside of jurisdiction.

Mr. Vito Colonna, of Connorstone Engineering, and representative for the applicant, Mr. Raied Dinno, was recognized for his presentation.

Mr. Colonna stated that the driveway is 14 feet wide with a 4-foot shoulder. During the review for developing the two lots, the Fire Department asked that it be widened to 18 feet. The roadway has deteriorated, so full pavement replacement is required. The majority of the work would be on opposite side, away from the wetlands.

He added that site drainage for roadway includes cross culverts, which are still in good condition and only require the removal of leaf debris. Riprap is to be placed at the outlet, and no scour is present. The riprap will prevent future scour.

He added that the stormwater basin is supposed to be a naturalized, low-impact type basin. It is more overgrown than it should be, and a lot of the overgrowth is invasive species. The bottoms are predominantly populated with wetland species. One basin has mostly cattails. The bottoms don't need much work. It is mostly the shoulders and berms that need to be cleared of vegetation. Woody vegetation has established. Two riprap spillways are to be reestablished.

He added that a wetland scientist has been asked to evaluate which plants should be removed, and which should stay. Some natives are mixed in with the invasives. The two lots for future development are outside of the Buffer Zone. The project doesn't include Lot 3, which is retained by the abutter.

In response to Coordinator Capone, Mr. Colonna stated that the edge that could drain into the resource area will be upgraded by hand work only. All the other work would be in areas that would drain into sediment basin. They could add a line of silt fence along the edge of the berm. The embankment is well-defined. It is only a couple of feet tall but it is defined as a manmade berm. Machinery will only be used in front and along the berms themselves, but

these areas drain into the forebays. There are a few pines, about 4-6 inches in diameter, that require machines to remove. He agreed to modify the erosion controls to contain that work.

In response to further questioning my Coordinator Capone, Mr. Colonna stated that machinery will not be need to install the new riprap area. It will be laid in small, 2 x 2 pads. A silt fence will be added. An excavator could reach in and scrape off the berm and put riprap down. There will be no other disturbance except where the riprap will be placed. Just as an added layer of protection, they could put in a horseshoe-shaped silt fence. Mr. Colonna added that the stone wall defines the Limit of Work. There are no plans to clear beyond that line.

In response to further questioning my Coordinator Capone, Mr. Colonna stated that a native conservation seed mix would be used, but no brand is specified to date. The forebays will be maintained by mowing once or twice a year to prevent anything woody from establishing. This will require a brush mower, as a weed whacker is insufficient. Access is directly from the road, as there is no grade break. Only the embankment will be mowed, which is the area between the forebay and roadway, and the berm on the backside. Coordinator Capone stated that a long-term operation and maintenance plan should be provided and included as part of the Order. Mr. Colonna stated that the limit of mowing would be indicated in said plan.

In response to Comm. Sevier, Mr. Colonna stated that the roadway will remain a private road. The homeowners will be responsible for snow plowing and road repairs, in addition to managing the basins. This will lessen the likelihood of the basins being neglected.

There were no public comments.

In response to Chair Henkels, Mr. Colonna and Mr. Dinno agreed to the continuation of the hearing until the March 13, 2023 meeting.

On motion by Comm. Rogers to continue the hearing to the March 13, 2023 meeting, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

On motion by Comm. Sevier to break for 5 minutes, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Other Business:

License Agreements – Davis Farm and Broadacres Conservation Lands

Coordinator Capone stated that, at the last meeting, there was an attempt to understand the proposed staging locations. Neither location on North Road was ideal for staging from the Commission's view. These are right on the edge of wetlands. On the opposite side, there's a very steep corridor with wetlands at the base of the slope. The contractor has made accommodation, and will use the street here, to go to the Fairview Farm section of corridor outside of the wetlands. They will stage on the northern side, outside of jurisdiction.

She further stated that the southern side remains an issue. She has been in communication with the contractor, Town Counsel, and the representative from MassDOT. They would like to stage two vehicles in Davis Farm for the month of March, just for the initial rail removal. Once in place, they would not need that area for staging.

She further stated that at Morse Road, they came up with a different solution than what was discussed at the last meeting. In this location, the trail runs adjacent to Broadacres. Staging would be north and south of Morse Road. There is also a parking lot going in here. In the next week or two, the two buildings at Broadacres are being demolished. The area will be leveled and left as a gravel lot. This space is ideal for equipment storage up until June, which is enough time to prep the parking lot area. They don't want to use it for storage until it is cleared and the stone has been placed down, to avoid a big mud pit being formed by what is expected to be constant activity.

She further stated that the License Agreement would be similar to that issued to Neuco for their use of the Lincoln Meadows property. There is no funding in the Bruce Freeman contract to pay rent for use of conservation land. This proposal is to use both spaces and, instead of rent, the contractor has agreed to re-gravel the parking lot at

Davis Farm with 4 inches of crushed gravel for resurfacing and regrading. They will also reset the bollard for the gate at the back of the lot.

She further stated that there is an outstanding matter with the License Agreement, which is whether work would be covered under the Bruce Freeman construction contract. Town Counsel prefers it be covered under this contract. MassDOT is thought to be bringing this up the chain of command so that the work can be covered under that contract. A legal document dictating the construction activity associated with the parking lot is required.

In response to Comm. Holtz, Coordinator Capone stated that the two buildings being demolished were in disrepair and presented a safety hazard. Funds from the Community Preservation Act were allocated for the demolition. If the parking area is not covered under the Bruce Freeman contract, then the Town would need to go through procurement to have a contract in place for that work, and would have to solicit three quotes.

On motion by Comm. Holtz to issue the License Agreement subject to Town Counsel's final review and approval, seconded by Comm. Sevier, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Conservation Commission Membership

Chair Henkels stated that Comm. Richard Morse has submitted his resignation, effective April 1, 2023. Associate Commissioner Luke Faust is willing to take his place, after participating as an Associate Member for some time.

Chair Henkels further stated that he met Richard Morse eight years ago, at the entrance to Tipling Rock, while looking at the kiosk. They walked up the hill together and talked about their interests and avocations. In the course of the hike, he was struck by Richard's innate curiosity and kindness. He's been an extraordinary participant with Commission and extraordinary asset to the Town. He acknowledged that volunteering can be difficult, and concluded by thanking Richard for his services.

Comm. Rogers stated that she would miss Richard and his fantastic sense of humor, adding that he really cares about conservation.

Comm. Holtz stated that he is very sad to see Richard stepping down.

Comm. Porter stated that Richard is very easy to get to know, and to get to like. He brought a different perspective, and was very active in many activities beside the Commission. Richard always has an eye out for how he can help, and will be missed tremendously.

Comm. Sevier stated that he is sorry to see Richard leave, and was grateful to have worked with him over the years.

On motion by Comm. Rogers to accept the resignation and express appreciation for time served, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Assoc. Comm. Luke Faust was recognized and asked to provide a brief background. He stated that he has lived in Sudbury for 3.5 years with his family. He enjoys walking in the woods, birdwatching, exploring and observing coyotes. Wildlife and conservation have always been one of his passions, and is something he studied in school. He works in the non-profit sector. A role as Commissioner will help stay connected to that passion, and he hopes to make a difference in improving conservation in Massachusetts and especially in the community. He is happy to join this Commission, and appreciates all the hard work that is required. He looks forward to contributing.

On motion by Comm. Sevier to recommend the appointment to Commission member with approval from the Town Manager and Select Board, seconded by Comm. Cook, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Appointment to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Task Force

Coordinator Capone stated that Comm. Morse was the representative for this task force, and that there is a need to vote a new member to the position. Their next meeting is on March 2, 2023.

In response to Coordinator Capone, Comm. Holtz stated that he is interested in serving in this capacity.

On motion by Comm. Cook to appoint Comm. Kenneth Holtz as the Commission's representative to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Task Force, seconded by Comm. Rogers, via roll call the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Earth Day

Coordinator Capone stated that Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Goodnow Library has asked for the Commission's participation. It will take place between 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. There are eight tables available. She recommended showing invasive plants and teaching people about them.

Comm. Rogers stated that she could help conditionally, but will know better in the next couple of weeks

Chair Henkels stated that he will be happy to take the spot, and requested Coordinator Capone's help in designing the table.

Comm. Rogers stated that a Scout volunteer is possible, as they require conservation hours.

Comm. Holtz suggested including information on the table about endangered animals, like ground-nesting birds, turtles, and salamanders.

Comm. Rogers suggested including the pamphlet on wetlands.

eSignatures

Coordinator Capone stated that there is a possibility that eSignatures will be deployed for the next meeting.

Adjourn Meeting

With no further business, on motion by Comm. Sevier, seconded by Comm. Cook, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM.