



T O W N O F
S T O N E H A M
M A S S A C H U S E T T S
Town Hall
35 Central Street

Stoneham Conservation Commission
781-279-2696

STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2021
REMOTE 7 PM

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Commissioners in attendance Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Jessica Gerke

Motion by Alex Rozycki to move Whip Hill to top of agenda as Jim Previte is on call, seconded by Rob Fotino. Roll call. Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons 5/0

Whip Hill has a lot of dogs not on leash. Wildlife sanctuary signs years ago per Jim Previte, these days dogs aren't on leashes as much. Dog scent has pushed wildlife away. Ellen McBride mentions Mass Audubon doesn't allow unleashed dogs. Ellen McBride suggests more signage when entering Whip Hill about all dogs should be leashed, pick up after your dogs. Jim Previte agrees more signage would help. Megan Day mentions she is at Whip Hill multiple days a week, and hasn't noticed more dogs off leash. Trail usage up because of pandemic. Megan Day mentions reinforcing leash positively at all entrance locations. Megan Day asks how we enforce leash laws? Ellen McBride thinks public education. Jim Previte has had animal control officer up to Whip Hill occasionally. Megan Day asks if we document and track off leash. Bob Parsons thinks additional signage at multiple entry locations, educating people, and website could be more robust. If weekly animal control officer could have presence would be best.

Parking lot usage, Jim Previte comments lower level for public. Upper level added 20 years ago for those meeting at house. Some folks walk on the driveway, toddlers, seniors and wheelchair accessible use. Ellen McBride mentions covid need for more parking, may need to look into expanding lower lot or how to access upper lot. Megan Day mentions cars blocking cars in lower lot, need for overflow on weekends.

Ellen McBride suggests talking to Town about expanding lower lot.

Jim Previte mentions parking spots are filled in surrounding towns. Upper lot don't expect to see cars if walking on road to upper lot. Alex Rozycki says it is not a two way traffic road.

Jim Previte does not salt/sand upper road to protect shrubs/mosses/trees. Trash in lower lot has to be picked up regularly. Ellen McBride suggests once covid has changed if there is still an issue with parking then talk to Town about reconfiguring lower lot and possibly adding to it.

Bob Parsons mentions cost of adding to it, gravel lot possible, one entry/one exit way, tree removal.

Megan Day mentions open space and recreation plan found Whip Hill to be underutilized, impediments to using it exist. Alex Rozycki asks if it can be done in house by Town.

Ellen McBride says tree removal is part of project, capital committee request for funding.

Ellen McBride mentions vernal pool. Megan Day asks about expanding width of driveway to make safe for 2 cars. Ellen McBride would rather redo lower lot and look at other areas in town and encourage other entrances.

Megan Day mentions no handicap spot, spot is at house.

Bob Parsons asks about allowing weekend parking. Ellen McBride asks about Stoneham only signage.

Brett Gonsalves asks about survey to ask what residents would like to see at Whip Hill?
Bob Parsons would like to ask Capital Committee. Ellen McBride comments that we will need multiple plans/budgets for their review. Jim Previte towards the pond can be quite wet. Worth visiting before next meeting. Rob Fotino large field that could be used for overflow parking.
Megan Day says it's worth capturing institutional knowledge about Whip Hill.

PUBLIC HEARING:

11 South Marble

Adrian Poci

The regulation of the flow of water in backyard, in and out of the channel, by replacing the old pipe and extending it along the entire length of the channel. Notice of Intent Continued
Mr Manuell emailed proposal to Dr. Poci. Motion to continue until 2/22/21 by Alex Rozycki, seconded Rob Fotino. Roll call Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Jessica Gerke, Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons 6/0

Rear Hillside Ave.

Jim Juliano

Construction of a new single family house with driveway and associated grading in the 100 foot buffer zone. Notice of Intent continued/Request for Determination of Applicability continued.
Ellen McBride recuses herself. Bob Parsons recaps bylaw language was ambiguous about resource areas. Isolated wetland is not jurisdictional at state level. Opinion provided by Town's legal counsel Attorney Galvin that language is ambiguous, so bylaw would not apply. Resource area we have jurisdiction over for approval and review by Commission.
Opinion from attorney for residents was sent, being reviewed by Mr. Galvin. Vernal pool consideration by Mary Rimmer and Leah Basbanes will visit area to determine vernal pool or not in spring. Met with Attorney Galvin to revise bylaw language to address ambiguity and develop revised bylaw.
EJ Green resident is wondering when vernal pool assessment happens will it also then be determined if other categories will be reviewed such as recalculating storage capacity as needed.
Bob Parsons said yes if vernal pool it would carry provisions of bylaw. We will ask Mary Rimmer to revisit whether it is an isolated land subject to flooding. Vernal pool delineation Mr. Parsons plans to attend.
EJ Green offers pictures of area now showing how wet it is.
Bob Parsons welcomes any pictures or information residents have that could help especially if standing water. Paul Checca can take pictures from backyard. Mr. Checca can forward.
EJ Green if bylaw is updated why would it not apply? Bob Parsons states filing had previously been made in advance of change of bylaw.
Motion to continue until 2/22/21 by Alex Rozycki seconded by Rob Fotino. Roll call Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Jessica Gerke, Bob Parsons 5/0

Bylaw Language

Proposed Wetlands Regulations Bylaw

Changes for isolated wetlands at both state and local level to include the following phrases “ and areas meeting the description of a “wetland” under this Ch. 11, Wetland Protection Bylaw and the regulations thereunder.
“and under this Ch. 11, Wetland Protection Bylaw and the regulations thereunder.”

Motion to accept bylaw Town Meeting by Ellen McBride seconded by Alex Rozycki Roll call Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Jessica Gerke, Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons 6/0

DISCUSSION ONLY:

Stoneham Fields

Steve Angelo and Brett Gonsalves

Intentions for field improvements.

Steele Playground rehabilitation plan from Open Space and Recreation survey asked for improvements.

Collaborate with capital committee and secure \$100,000 grant to have ADA compliant playground in Stoneham. Solidifying timelines to begin March 1, 2021 to take out existing structures and install new equipment. Mr. Previte looked at trees, Norway maple needs to be removed. Playground structures shown. Should be no impact on trees with new flooring. Completed by June 1, 2021 to comply.

Brett Gonsalves asked Jim Previte to do health assessment of trees, memo distributed that details maple removal. Red oak in great shape, some safety pruning for higher equipment. Sugar maple will be limbed up. Hackberry tree in decline so should be removed. Replacement of 4-6 trees by fence line for shade.

Bob Parsons comfortable with Jim's recommendations. Likes the idea of adding trees on perimeter. Great that we are adding accessible playground.

Ellen McBride agrees and proponent of Jim Previte's decisions to remove trees. Is fence staying?

Brett Gonsalves no provision for updating fence. Steve Angelo said fencing is not part of budget.

Alex Rozycki curious how close pour-in-place will be to red oak as roots of the tree go out far. Norway maple has not been a good tree for the Town, planted 30 years ago.

Brett Gonsalves did ask Jim Previte about drip line and pour-in-place, told not an issue. Do trees need to go to public hearing for shade tree? Ellen McBride believes no, it is only for a citizen who is requesting tree removal.

Conservation Commission agrees to tree work for project. Brett Gonsalves will provide tree planting plan.

Division of Conservation services Park Grant

2 North Street

Bear Hill Golf Course

Discussion of restoring impacted areas and tree plantings.

Continued

3 Daniel Drive

Joseph Penney

DCR report

Continued

Whip Hill

Dogs leashed- moved to above.

Approve Meeting Minutes January 4, 2021

Motion to approved amended minutes by Alex Rozycki, seconded by Bob Parsons. Roll call Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Jessica Gerke recuses herself. 5/0/1

Next Meeting February 22, 2021

Motion to adjourn by Megan Day, seconded by Bob Parsons. Roll call Megan Day, Alex Rozycki, Rob Fotino, Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Jessica Gerke 6/0