



Town of Duxbury Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 2, 2022

Joint in person meeting with Duxbury Selectboard

Approved May 10, 2022

TOWN CLERK

2022 MAY 20 PM 12:16

DUXBURY, MASS.

The Conservation Commission met in the Town Hall Mural Room on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in person with the Selectboard.

Members Present: Robb D'Ambruoso, Chair; Sam Butcher; Holly Morris; Mickey McGonagle; Corey Wisneski and Scott Zoltowski, Vice Chair

Member Absent: Tom Gill

Staff Present: Joe Grady, Conservation Administrator; Nancy Rufo, Administrative Assistant; Pat Loring, volunteer

Select Board Present: Fernando Guitart, Chair; Cindy Ladd Fiorini, Vice-Chair; Michael McGee, Clerk; Ted Flynn; and Amy MacNab.

Staff Present: Rene Read, Town Manager; Michelle Seda-Stotts, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Selectboard Chair, Fernando Guitart.

Mr. Guitart read the following preamble: Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and, as a courtesy, via remote means in accordance with applicable law. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public and board members, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless required by law.

Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so by viewing the Duxbury Government Access Channels – Verizon 39 or Comcast15. Viewers can visit www.pactv.org/duxbury for information about Duxbury programming including streaming on Duxbury You Tube, to watch replays and Videos on Demand.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM: One matter had been previously addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion pertaining to the Conservation Department Strategic Plan. Conservation Commission Chair, Robb D'Ambruoso thanked the Selectboard for meeting with the Commission and introduced Commission members in attendance. He presented an overview of the Commission's jurisdiction under the MA Wetlands Protection Act (G.L. 131 S.40), inland and coastal, the Local Wetland Bylaw, and the administration of both, including following up on Orders of Conditions to ensure compliance.

Mr. D'Ambruoso went on to cover the following activities of the Commission: Management of 3,000 acres of Conservation Land and the trail networks; writing the town's Open Space and Recreations Plan, required by the Commonwealth; working with other boards and committees, especially the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and the Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc.; protecting wildlife habitat and water quality; promoting local agriculture; assisting with dam removal; controlling pond weed growth; and regulating piers. Priority work moving forward includes returning the Community Preservation Act surcharge to 3% to receive additional funds for land purchases and to be eligible for the full CPA matching funds.

Mr. Mickey McGonagle was introduced. He emphasized the importance of climate change impacts on the town and the importance of Duxbury developing a Plan to address climate change now that the Woods Hole Groups' study and report has been finalized.

Ms. Holly Morris spoke about additional work of the Commission, including implementation of laws and regulations; the connection between the CPC and the Commission, including shared staff; the drafting of Conservation Restrictions, Leases and Requests for Proposals; work on selling the Isaac Simmons Farm property and returning the CPA surcharge to 3%.

The Selectboard members individually thanked the Commissioners for their presentations. Several members stated they were proponents of returning the CPA surcharge to 3% starting as soon as the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. They also stated there is Climate Resiliency Plan and they are thinking through the role of the Selectboard.

Joe Grady spoke about climate change, specifically that local rainfall and wind data, as well as sea level rise data, will need to be changed to reflect current conditions so new regulations will be accurate. Fernando Guitart noted the Duxbury Bay Management Commission has taken on the task.

Discussion pertaining to selection of a Selectboard member to sit on the Conservation Administrator Hiring Team. Amy MacNab, Liaison to the Conservation Commission, was selected to be a member of the Conservation Administrator Hiring Team. Rene Read stated the search process would begin on May 16, 2022 and end on August 8, 2022.

The Conservation Commission left the Selectboard meeting at 7:45 p.m. ending its joint meeting with the Selectboard.