

**Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes of  
January 20, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Tim Lovell, Jim Wilkinson, Steve Ungerer, David Treat, Brent Ebner and Neil Lynch.

**GUESTS:** Carl Cote and Karl Schumacher

Mr. Lovell called the meeting to order at 7PM

**Minutes**

Mr. Lovell made a motion to accept the amended meeting minutes of November 20, 2020. Mr. Steve Ungerer seconded the motion. Vote: 4-1-0. (Mr. Treat abstained)

**Non-public Meeting minutes**

Mr. Lovell made a motion to open the sealed the meeting minutes of 7/17/19, 7/15/20 and 8/18/20 and release those records that are not related to real estate. Mr. Ebner seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Lovell opened the sealed minutes. July 2019 and July 2020 only mention real estate. August 2020 has minutes regarding real estate, Shop Pond and Hadley Road. The minutes for Shop Pond and Hadley Road were unsealed. The minutes regarding real estate were sealed.

Mr. Lovell provided copies of the Right To Know law for the Commission to review.

**Planning For 2021**

Mr. Treat expressed his interest in invasive plants. He will survey the East side to see what invasive species exist. Honeysuckle, Japanese Barberry, Bittersweet and Burning Bush were found on the West side.

Mr. Treat made a motion to allow invasive species removal costs to be paid by the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Ungerer. Vote :5-0.

Mr. Ebner said that he needs trees to construct bridges. There are a lot of trees on Whitcher Road, adjacent to the trails. Trucks would not be able to navigate the trail system on Whitcher. Mr. Ungerer said that tree removal and transportation would be difficult.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to look for trees to harvest, cost to be determined, the motion was seconded. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Wilkinson will continue to work on the map project and will finish marking the trail system. The Town received 100 trail maps for free, they are going quickly. The maps are digitized as well. It may cost \$400 to map the East side of Town. Metal might have to be

used in the future instead of PVC for signage. The Commission might have to start charging people for maps.

There is a boggy area around Cambridge that needs some work.

The West Road bridge at the bottom of the hill is rotten and needs to be filled with epoxy. A water shield should also be installed.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to purchase maps for the East side and to expend up to \$400. Mr. Ungerer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0

In the past people have indicated that they are interested in volunteering. A list of interested individuals should be kept.

Mr. Lynch said that he is concerned with invasive Species as well and stonewall history. He completed an inventory of the stonewalls in Concord, MA. and believes that Hampstead's stonewalls are original and historic. Mr. Lovell said that he could coordinate with the historic commission. Mr. Wilkinson said that he was trying to determine parcel boundaries while he was mapping the conservation land, he mapped almost all the stonewalls. There are also rock piles on conservation land that were never used to make stone walls.

Mr. Lovell said that there are other projects such as gravel on Golden Meadow at the trailhead. There is erosion at the cul-de-sac. he would like to buy enough gravel for Golden Meadow, Stage Road and Hadley. The cost would be approximately \$1000.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to purchase gravel to use at multiple sites. The motion was seconded. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Lovell said that he doesn't want to spend too much money in the Hadley area but it might need signage. It is a dirt site, so he will check to see if there are any soft areas that need fill. The forestry truck(s) need to maneuver in that area if there is a fire. Mr. Ungerer asked if a gate would be installed. Mr. Lovell said that logs can be placed to prohibit driving on the trail system. The large pile of dirt that exists onsite will remain there for right now. Hadley Road parking area will need a kiosk.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to do additional maintenance on Hadley parking to make it useable such as cleaning, stonework, and make it accessible. Mr. Treat seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Wilkinson asked if the grading was done yet? Mr. Lovell said it was not. The builder is supposed to do it. If it is not done by this Spring, Mr. Lovell will do it.

### **Eagle Scout project**

An update was given on the Eagle Scout project by Nathan Rous. He will build benches and picnic table for the Dustin property. There is a section on top of a hill that would be a

good location. A bench could also be placed at four corners. A picnic table could be located at the mill site off of Faith Drive. Mr. Wilkinson suggested a bench at the Randall/Moore parcel at painted rock.

The fields will need to be cut again. In the past, it cost \$750, now it is up to about \$1,400. Buildings and Grounds cleans up the trails too.

### **Visitor comments**

Mr. Cote was present and thanked the commission for unsealing the minutes. He would like to have a hearing to receive input from others concerning the Hadley parking area. He suggested that other department heads attend. Mr. Cote is in favor of the Hadley Road parking area. The new neighbors were not aware of the parking lot and they have not been heard. There would be no harm in having a hearing. If there was a hearing than everyone can share their points of view. This is a great resource to the Town and others should be heard. The Fire Chief should be contacted about the forestry truck. Mr. Lovell said that he already spoke with the Chief about the cul-de-sac and large trucks. The cars need to be off of the cul-de-sac to due rescue vehicles. The parking area would handle 7-10 parking spaces. Mr. Cote said that this is a quiet neighborhood unlike the West Road parking area. Any of the overflow will go into Mr. Cotes' neighborhood. Having a hearing will allow people to be part of the discussion. Mr. Lovell said that he has spoken with both the police and fire and they saw no problem with the Hadley parking. When asked, Mr. Lovell said that they have no intention of paving the parking area. Mr. Cote is concerned that his insurance might go up. Mr. Lynch said that a public haring would have comment period and determine the best interest of the public and how the rest of the town feels. Usage of the conservation land up due to COVID-19, the numbers may drop off in the future.

Mr. Ebner said that this conversation started with the developer who was going to place a parking lot there, which was going to be twice the size that is presently being discussed. Had it gone forward when the developer proposed it, the parking lot would have been installed before the new homeowners moved in, instead the builder pulled out and installed a water line.

Mr. Schumacher said that friendships have been lost to the lack of transparency. He agrees with Mr. Lynch and Mr. Cote about having a hearing. He is not against the parking but it came about in a dubious manner. New people are in the neighborhood and they have a strong opinion of it.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ungerer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held on February 17, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sally Theriault