



**Town of Uxbridge
Conservation Commission
21 South Main Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569
508-278-8600 x 2020**



**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 30th, 2015 – 7:00PM
Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Uxbridge Town Hall**

**Received by
Uxbridge
Town Clerk**

Please note some items may have been taken out of agenda order.

Members Present: Russell Holden (Chair), Jim Hogan (Vice Chair/Treasurer), Jeffrey Shaw (Clerk), Michael Potaski and Patrick Hannon

Member(s) Absent: Member Tracy Tibedo

Staff Present: Kristin Black (Conservation Administrator)

I. TOWN OF UXBRIDGE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN (OSRP)

- a) **INTRODUCTION:** Mass Audubon's "Losing Ground" Fifth Edition (June 2014) Slides. Between 2005 and 2013, Uxbridge ranked as follows (out of 351 towns):
 - 11th for Total area of new development
 - 30th for Natural land converted to development
 - 9th for Open land converted to development
- b) **BACKGROUND:** The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is the review authority for such plans. Once a plan is approved, it is now valid for 7 years. See Open Space & Recreation Planner's Workbook.
- c) **PURPOSE:** Powerful instrument to effect community goals – advocate for open space and recreational needs in your community, plan for future development and open space protection. Having a state approved OSRP is a requirement that must be met if a municipality wants to apply for open space acquisition grants and/or recreation-related grants (e.g. Self-Help, Land and Water Conservation Funds and other grants administered by EEA). OSRP also help assist acquisition efforts by state environmental agencies and local/regional land trusts.
- d) **HISTORY:**
 - a. 2008. Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (Prepared by PGC Associates by virtue of a \$2500 grant from the Trustees of the Reservations). The grant was not awarded though! The CC voted to endorse the OSRP on 4/21/2009. A copy of the plan was emailed to Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. The plan was never submitted to the state for approval. Gino Carlucci (PGC Associates) remembers that Megan DiPrete (Planning Director) needed to complete the Handicap Accessibility portion of the document but may have left employment prior to completion.
 - b. 2004. Final Open Space & Recreation Plan (Prepared by PGC Associates, Inc.). Plan approved by town boards but apparently not submitted to state agencies for final step in the process.
 - c. 1984. Approved Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Prepared by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission)
- e) **OUTCOME:** Kristin Black will draft a memo to be posted on the town's website. The memo will include a summary above and solicit public involvement and creation of an Open Space and Recreation Committee. The draft 2008 plan and approved 2004 Open Space and Recreation Plans for the Town of Uxbridge should be made available on the web.

II. MACC MODEL CONSERVATION BYLAW

- a) MACC slide showing towns with bylaws in 2006. Uxbridge does not have a bylaw nor was a bylaw ever proposed at town meeting.
- b) MACC model bylaw reviewed. The model bylaw is a framework.
- c) Several possible bylaws briefly discussed including 25' no touch, snow policy, vernal pool protection, septic system minimum setbacks, and fines.

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- d) **OUTCOME:** Jim Hogan will compile a list of 5-10 possible bylaw topics for future discussion. Examples from other town's bylaws can be inserted for each item in the list. Kristin Black will contact Kathleen Connolly (MACC president) for good examples of conservation bylaws with fines that are specific to compliance issues with existing permits.

III. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- a) Uxbridge Stormwater Bylaw. Russ Holden will contact Benn Sherman for a update.
- b) Town Warrant Article 18 – Disposition of Town Owned Lands. The 0 Pond Street Parcel was discussed for conservation value. There was consensus that parcels of conservation value should be identified. Kristin Black will research all parcels in the article for conservation value (e.g. resources, mapping, and contiguous open space). Kristin Black will draft a memo that identifies these parcels and recommended action and circulate to the members by the end of the week.
- c) Possible DEP Training by Judy Schmitz, DEP Circuit Rider. The members and agent expressed interested in training on Stormwater/Hydrology (a review of the Stormwater Standards, Checklist, basic hydrology) and Wetland Border Review (outdoor workshop covering basic wetland plant and soil ID). Kristin Black will contact Judy to schedule a possible training around 4PM on April 22nd or April 23rd.
- d) Site Visit for BJ's cemetery trail rescheduled for 4:30PM on April 15th.
- e) Scout Projects. Pat Hannon circulated information on Boy Scout projects related to Conservation.
- f) Vernal Pools. Kristin Black will compile a list of potential vernal pools on town owned lands.

At approximately 8:40PM, MOTION by Jeff Shaw to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Hogan, the motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Black
Conservation Administrator



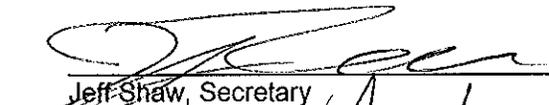
Russell Holden, Chairman



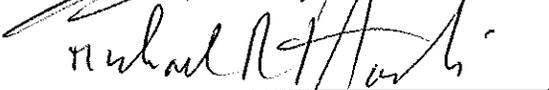
Jim Hogan, Treasurer



Patrick Hannon, Member



Jeff Shaw, Secretary



Michael Potaski, Member

4/6/15
Date