

PROVINCETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JUDGE WELSH ROOM
January 31, 2012
6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Dennis Minsky, David Hale, Hank Janowsky and Barbara Prato.

Members Absent: Lynne Martin (excused).

Others Present: Brian Carlson (Conservation Agent) and Ellen C. Battaglini (Recording Secretary).

WORK SESSION

Chair Dennis Minsky called the Work Session to order at 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES: January 17, 2012 – *Dennis Minsky moved to approve the language as amended, David Hale seconded and it was so voted, 3-0-1 (HJ abstaining).*

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT:

The Commission discussed revisions and updates to the Annual Town Report. The first paragraph remained the same. The lack of alternate Commissioners and vacancies was noted in the second paragraph. The third paragraph remained the same. Some dates were revised in the fourth paragraph and Brian will check the Americorps salary for Mark Pfeifer. A paragraph about the new by-law will be inserted next. David Hale suggested changes to the paragraph concerning the B Street Garden, including the number of applicants for plots, the increase in plots, the installation of the solar-powered pump, the continued eradication of invasive plant species and the drafting of a preliminary Master Plan. The sixth paragraph was deleted entirely. The seventh paragraph will be reworded to update the fact that the Town has been awarded a 'Green Community' designation. After the end of the fourth paragraph, the awarding of VSB grants for trail maps, brochures and signage to improve the public's awareness of conservation lands will be mentioned. The eighth paragraph will remain the same.

The Commission discussed the new by-law and how to improve its implementation by staff.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN:

Brian passed out sections of the Plan that needed to be revised. In addition to these revisions, a public survey is required. Brian reviewed some questions to be included in the survey. The Commission discussed these. One of the questions asked is how often the public visited certain conservation areas. Some of the local areas discussed for inclusion were Clapp's Pond, Shank Painter Pond Sanctuary, bike trails, Town landings and beaches, designated shellfish areas, Old Colony Nature Path, Hawthorne Property, Nicky's Park, Foss Woods, Whistle Path Woods, Fox Run, Suzanne's Garden and B-Street Garden. The Commission discussed some additional questions.

The Commission then reviewed and revised Table 5.2 on page 36 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, a list of unprotected land for purchase, conservation restrictions and easements. The Foss Estate and the Hawthorne, Ghee and Miller Hill Realty, Andonian and Frank properties were removed. The Mayo and Cleveland Road properties were added.

Finally, the Commission briefly reviewed and discussed changes to Section 8: Goals and Objectives. Dennis noted that something about the Greenway needed to be added and Hank suggested a mention of the Commission's efforts at increasing public awareness of conservation lands under number 5. The Commission agreed that the B Street Garden should be mentioned, possibly as an example under 1 b). Dennis suggested that Commissioners review the Five-Year Action Plan on their own and the discussion will be continued at a later date.

The use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, including the issue of Round-up use on Fishburn Court, was briefly discussed and will be discussed further at the next Work Session on February 21, 2012.

David Hale will send Commissioners a proposed map from the B Street Garden Master Plan for further discussion and approval.

David Hale reported on his meeting with Nate Weeks, the new engineer working on the Shank Painter Pond study. Nate said that the next step will be a flora and fauna study in the spring. He showed David the drainage map of Shank Painter Pond. Apparently DPW had not informed him that there were hook-ups to the outfall pipe. Nate suggested applying for grant money for a study and restoration, but a remediation plan would be necessary. His suggestion was to create a man-made wetland in the area of the B Street Garden. The Commission discussed the idea. More information is needed.

ADJOURNMENT: *Barbara Prato moved to adjourn at 8:20 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.*

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Conservation Commission at their meeting on _____, 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen C. Battaglini

Approved by _____ on _____, 2012
Dennis Minsky, Chair