



**TOWN OF
STONEHAM**
MASSACHUSETTS 02180

Conservation Commission
(781) 279-2696
jdecourcy@stoneham-ma.gov

**STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 27 2025
Hybrid/Hearing Room Town Hall 7:30 PM**

Meeting will be in person at Town Hall 35 Central St and also available via “go to meeting” at this log on:
<https://meet.goto.com/312800493> Phone Access Code: 312-800-493 U.S.: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry, George Seibold, Charles Houghton, Pam Sherry, Ian Gasco-Wiggin

Motion to open meeting by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Jessica Gerke roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry

PUBLIC HEARING

100 Fallon Rd

Charles Houghton/Maureen Herald

RDA Continuation, reschedule site visit.

Site visit cancelled due to weather. RDA continued until next meeting.

Marjam building, 6.5 acres of land, wetlands and rivers act questions. BVW will get a plan together to address.

Rich Kirby spoke to Maureen Herald about postponing site visit, not looking for wetland boundary delineation as it's not on a plan. Status of stream we can do without a plan per Rich Kirby. Meet at site the week before the hearing, if weather works Wednesday Feb 19th 3pm for site visit.

Motion to continue until next meeting February 24, 2025 at 7pm by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Richard Jackson roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry

DISCUSSION

Rockville Park

Charles Houghton

Discussion of reflagging.

Will file notice of intent, flags are still there from 3 years ago. Jessica Gerke ok with older flags. Domenick Cimina says new plan even further from wetlands. Grading changes per Charles Houghton. Motion by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Megan Day to not require reflagging roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry

Whip Hill

Liz Cohen Friends of the Fells requests use of manor June 16-20, 2025

Jeanne Craigie all for people using Whip Hill. Friends of the Fells is a 501c3, DCR charges residents per Jeanne Craigie. Regulations allow non profits per Megan Day. Motion to allow by Domenick Cimina seconded by Jessica Gerke roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry



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Geocaching option Pam Sherry

Fun option for Whip Hill, recreational option to place caches on grounds of Whip Hill. Will Perry thinks it's a great idea. Jeanne Craigie thinks it will draw more people to Whip Hill, great way for residents to be part of Whip Hill. Jessica Gerke asks that caches are close to trail and Pam Sherry responds she understands and it should be somewhat hidden and respectful of property. Reflector on fence possible, wait until spring to place on trails, sooner could place on parking barriers suggested by Pam Sherry. Will send coordinates to Conservation Commission before placed. Lady slippers on left side of driveway across from main house, behind rhododendrons is mentioned by Jeanne Craigie. Approval based on location per Jessica Gerke. Domenick Cimina asks Pam Sherry to connect with caretaker Jim Previte in March 2025. Signage in the spring per Megan Day to say don't go off the trails, and have signage put up. Megan Day says we will send Whip Hill guidelines to Pam Sherry. Motion by Jeanne Craigie to approve Megan Day seconds roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry

Jeanne Craigie unhappy to see lady slippers being pulled out in a picture.

Signage on property should be discussed with caretakers per Megan Day. Pamphlet and maps of trails for Whip Hill. Brochure holder on property.

Weiss Farm

Rich Kirby update

Visited Weiss Farm today, snow on ground, wind blown debris had been cleaned up, compost sock was replaced. Met Caitlin White from Hancock Associates. Shows pictures from site visit. No flowing water on south side of Franklin Street. Went to Bennett's house, water in the channel. Contractor aware of house keeping items. Domenick Cimina asks if they were using salt on site? Rich Kirby didn't notice any. Ian Gasco-Wiggin would have to confirm with Callahan about salt. Domenick Cimina asks Ian Gasco-Wiggin if pump is working, Ian Gasco-Wiggin believes it is. Domenick Cimina asks Ian Gasco-Wiggin to confirm how they are handling snow removal.

Email from abutter received today and entered into our record per Jessica Gerke.

RDA Notification change

Abutter notification for RDA and fee structure review

Megan Day cumbersome on applicant to notify abutters and put into newspaper with RDA, our bylaw includes notifying abutters. Cost saving measure for applicants to notify abutters to remove RDA abutter notification requirement, amend bylaws. Richard Jackson asks if it was a courtesy for abutters. Megan Day says if a notice of intent it will still notify abutters.

Fees, currently don't charge from a RDA, Appendix A doesn't exist. Can charge for a RDA. Jessica Gerke Jeanne Craigie asks what other Towns do, Reading charges \$75. Megan Day suggests making both changes at the same time.

Jeanne Craigie makes a motion to pursue and Jessica Gerke seconds roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Bill Perry

Reorganization of Commission

Discussion of co-chair/vice chair. Norman L'Esperance recognition.

Domenick Cimina will run meeting until April 2025.

Megan Day says chair and vice is neighboring commission's structure. April discussion is a vote to change from co-chairs to chair and vice chair. Jeanne Craigie mentions protocol is chair asks for a motion.

Megan Day can write recommendation for Sapphire award for Norman L'Esperance, due before June meeting.

Jeanne Craigie suggests entire Commission signs application.



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Matters not anticipated

Jeanne Craigie mentions state of Whip Hill after reading architect report, cleaning issue is prominent. She is surprised Jim Previte is away until March. Employee said Mr. Previte was around, red flag as he was gone. Mr. Previte did not notify chair per Domenick Cimina. Agreement does not state maximum time away. Commission needs to add to agreement if revisions are needed. Megan Day says signed in August, will revisit before, keep all this in mind. Domenick Cimina asked that gate be closed every night and opened in morning. Jeanne Craigie noticed gate was open 5 nights in a row, vandalism issue, gate should be shut. Gate closure needs to be in agreement per Domenick Cimina. Jessica Gerke thinks office administrator should know if there is only one person there. Perhaps police should be notified per Jessica Gerke. Job description can be circulated. Signs can be paid for by Town or trust, need to be determined what we want on them. Domenick Cimina suggests asking Jim Previte about signage.

Approve Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2025

Motion to approve by Richard Jackson seconded by Jeanne Craigie roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry

Next Meeting February 24, 2025

Motion to not return to meeting and adjourn meeting and enter into executive session by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Megan Day Roll call yes 6/0 Megan Day, Jeanne Craigie, Richard Jackson, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, Bill Perry