



**TOWN OF
STONEHAM**
MASSACHUSETTS 02180

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

**STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 12 2025 7 PM
Hybrid/Hearing Room Town Hall**

Please join us in person at the Hearing Room 35 Central Street Town Hall or by logging in at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83209293586?pwd=R0q7tSAM81Ks8OzJ53rnFjiUbO2DjX.1>
Passcode:887923 Login by phone:(929) 205-6099

Domenick Cimina, Jess Gerke, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie, Rich Kirby

Motion to open meeting by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Jeremy Zasowski roll call yes 4/0 Domenick Cimina, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie

PUBLIC HEARING

DISCUSSION

Weiss Farm

April Environmental monitor report. Rich Kirby update. Martin Wantman emails.

May 5, 2025 Rich Kirby did site visit, after half an inch of rain. Saw Weiss and Arthur Bennett's property. Generally good shape, some wind blown debris, chain link fence is keeping debris on site. Water levels higher than April and flowing water away from Franklin Street to the South. Pump functioning in manner intended. Silt sacks functioning. Erosion controls reviewed. Floodwater in Bennett's property, continuous with stream beneath Franklin Street.

Domenick Cimina mentions Town cleaned pipe and found blockage at neighbor's catch basin and was corrected Thursday May 8 and May 9, 2025. Heidi Zisch is contact person for Weiss Farm.

Jeanne Craigie asks if we should request cleanup on a periodic basis.

Domenick Cimina suggested eliminating catch basin to DPW.

Rich Kirby says if there is an easement it should be reviewed to see what Town is able to do by right. If there are others contributing to the problem in the neighborhood they could be addressed.

Richard Jackson says it needs to be maintained. Entrance on Sunset. Has an outlet per Richard Jackson.

Motion to review if grate can be replaced with solid cover asks Jeremy Zasowski. Domenick Cimina will follow up with Brett Gonsalves.

Rich Kirby will send report for June 9 meeting and will see Weiss the week before.

Jeanne Craigie makes a motion for chair to speak with DPW to see if solid cover can be used instead seconded by Richard Jackson roll call yes 5/0 Domenick Cimina, Jess Gerke, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie



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Whip Hill

Site Visit Recap

Domenick Cimina visited Jim Previte today, carpenter and mason are being considered. Mantle needs restoration inside. Carpenter for rotted wood being contacted. Moss removal from roof

Tree planted today for Norman L'Esperance. After sapphire award picture at tree with family for paper.

Priority List at Whip Hill Jeanne Craigie thinks roof/gutter are priorities to keep water from getting in building. Working on 3 estimate for procurement if over \$5000 per Jeanne Craigie. First quote is in, board will choose from options. Dennis Sheehan suggested to Jeanne Craigie to start plan to get into capital expenses line. Investment for the Town.

Signage update – memorial trees on map instead of plaque suggested by Jeremy Zasowski.

Jessica Gerke consolidate signage at parking area at trailhead kiosk, history of property, guidelines/rules, map, qr code for more info, community event space. Smaller kiosk at far end of upper parking lot to catch both trailheads. Remove existing damaged signs. Anti graffiti coating possible.

Vehicle excluded sign, no vehicles beyond this point proceed with caution, event sign for upper parking lot on sandwich board sign.

Fells map doesn't have whip hill trails system, existing map could be expanded.

Future options: sign on gate that says dawn –dusk or gate closed at sundown.

Signs when exit trails reminders possible.

Trail blazes maintained and replaced as needed.

When coming from Fells you don't know when you're on Whip Hill property add medallions as boundary marker.

Jeremy Zasowski says there is one main entry intersection.

Jessica Gerke says they can be printed on heavy plastic medallion with Town of Stoneham Whip Hill.

Education sign near the house possible with history of house possible.

Garden signage could include educational focus.

Vernal pool sign in good shape currently.

Jessica Gerke suggests approaching high school or vocational school (has visual communication department) to take a pass at signage, trail map specifically and also use guidelines sign, history of property sign. Perhaps vocational school would be able to build kiosk.

Jeanne Craigie said Larry Means facilitated podium and gazebo.

Jeanne Craigie suggests starting at front signs and back medallions, Domenick Cimina suggest replacing metal signs. Kiosk is priority per Jess Gerke.

Jeanne Craigie likes green tree at top, white and green lettering for new sign.

Vehicle sign should be replaced. Authorized vehicles only (beyond this point). Sandwich board only to allow at meetings. General public does not need to know about upper lot, events can be handled through office per Jeanne Craigie.

Kiosk project for fall.

300th Anniversary Club update- 8/23 Friends of Fells and Garden Club tours, raindate 8/24/25

Motion to accept by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Richard Jackson roll call 5/0 Domenick Cimina, Jess Gerke, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie

Tree Policy

Review for Jurisdictional Tree Removals: 28 Hall Rd removal

Tree inspector viewed 28 Hall Rd and agreed its hazardous, homeowner is removing.



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Tree policy for homeowners to know how to handle hazardous tree requests. Jessica Gerke mentions size of tree- 3 inch caliber can be expensive. Has to survive for 2 years, has to be replaced if dies. 2 inch dbh, 3-4 feet evergreen, 3-4 ft trees, 2 ft. for shrubs reductions suggested by Jessica Gerke.
Ask Town arborist to weigh in and Attorney Galvin.

Motion to approve tree policy after Tom Brady has weighed in by Jeanne Craigie seconded by Richard Jackson roll call yes 5/0 Domenick Cimina, Jess Gerke, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie

Matters not anticipated

Jeremy Zasowski – community garden with Garden club explored? Jeanne Craigie has been looking for community garden, raised beds. Jeanne Craigie asked about a spot by Friendly’s Straw Point, was told no. Pushed back about going up to Whip Hill with Garden Club, issue with water. Open space behind playground at Town Hall mentioned by Jeremy Zasowski. Jeanne Craigie doesn’t think it would work. Jeanne Craigie thinks Whip Hill could work. Richard Jackson mentions there’s room at the Senior Center. Jeanne Craigie thought of the middle school too. Jeanne Craigie mentions perks for Stoneham residents like zoo admittance, kayak rentals and washing. High School is going to have garden club.

Approve Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2025

Motion to approve made by Richard Jackson, seconded by Jeremy Zasowski roll call yes 5/0 Domenick Cimina, Jess Gerke, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie

Next Meeting June 9, 2025

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jeremy Zasowski seconded by Richard Jackson Roll call yes 5/0 Domenick Cimina, Jess Gerke, Jeremy Zasowski, Richard Jackson, Jeanne Craigie