



**TOWN OF  
STONEHAM**  
MASSACHUSETTS 02180

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

**STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 28, 2025 4:30 PM  
Hearing Room Town Hall**

Domenick Cimina, Jeanne Craigie, Jessica Gerke, Megan Day, Richard Jackson, Jeremy Zasowski, Jen Enck, Dennis Sheehan, Ellen McBride

**DISCUSSION**

Motion to open meeting by Richard Jackson seconded by Jeanne Craigie roll call yes 7/0 Domenick Cimina, Jeanne Craigie, Jessica Gerke, Megan Day, Richard Jackson, Jeremy Zasowski, Jen Enck,

**Whip Hill caretaker replacement and procedures**

Jim Previte retiring. Advertised, cori'd, approved. Domenick Cimina appointing people to advertise, compile a list of people for June 9, 2025.

Jeanne Craigie exit plan? Jim Previte was time stamped today as received resignation. Inventory at Whip Hill?

Jessica Gerke doesn't know what is Jim's or the Towns, potential for upgrades, do we make improvements during time while space is empty.

Megan Day subcommittee put together job description, out of respect for what they've done. AJ Jamogchian is capable of maintaining the house. Upgrades, AJ Jamogchian is staying on. We are in a better position than a year ago.

Jessica Gerke revisit changes to contracts and caretaker job description.

Wildlife conservation center 1974 Megan Day mentions, Conservation Commissions need to enforce wetlands protection act. Part time caretaker and part time grant writer, manage groups and look for opportunities, what has to happen through the trust. Conditions in trust as to who has to be there per Jeremy Zasowski 365 days a year. No harm to property, has to be more than just rehiring, an opportunity to divvy into multiple positions. Jim Previte has had a lot of hats, have to figure out how many positions this should be.

Domenick Cimina asks how we are going to get this done for Whip Hill? Megan Day suggests subcommittee.

Domenick Cimina is concerned about timeline, we need to meet more often. Megan Day says AJ Jamogchian should be consulted.



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Jeremy Zasowski asks if both were caretakers. AJ Jamogchian was night watchmen per Domenick Cimina, Megan Day says job descriptions are identical for AJ Jamogchian and Jim Previte. Expanded role seems a different role per Jeremy Zasowski, what do we want the space to be and what do we want to do there.

Caretaker side versus grants/community involvement. Someone who can do site visits per Megan Day, conservation agent to live there with Town picking up fee per Domenick Cimina.

Jeanne Craigie thinks wording it correctly for property. AJ Jamogchian can do the job for now, she thinks we need to be clear that AJ Jamogchian not become Jim Previte. Jim Previte may do more trail maintenance, AJ Jamogchian may do snow removal and gate closing per Jessica Gerke.

Domenick Cimina opens up discussion to the public.

Megan Day asks Ellen McBride if Jim Previte was being paid for being conservation agent and tree warden, part time caretaker. Ellen McBride responds Jim's role has changed many times. Tree warden was a side letter, most he ever made was \$15,000. Paid by Town.

Ellen McBride believes we should ask AJ Jamogchian and Jim Previte to attend subcommittee meetings and Garden Club. Ellen McBride said he was living at Whip Hill and to get town job for benefits. DPW 3 days and 2 days whip hill and paid by the Town with stipend as Tree Warden.

Dennis Sheehan remembers Jim Previte would get a check from the trust \$200/month originally.

Ellen McBride thinks it's an opportunity to make that position what we want it to be. Part time agent with wetland scientist experience, trail maintenance and large experience with woods/trees/nature. We are lucky to have AJ Jamogchian, Ellen McBride thinks the park has suffered since Jim Previte went part time. Domenick Cimina says it will be difficult to find someone to live there without a stipend. Ellen McBride agrees and comments Jim Previte pays his own cable, phone, internet.

Jeanne Craigie asks Ellen McBride what the trust has to do with the Town. The money is for maintenance and improvement at Whip Hill per Ellen McBride, not a stipend. Dennis Sheehan conservation agent work isn't necessarily tied to whip hill. Jeremy Zasowski asks about drawing a salary from the Town 8/1/25?

Dennis Sheehan suggests on call per project for Conservation agent. Domenick Cimina asks for 10 hours a week, Jessica Gerke says perhaps 10 hours a month. Megan Day says we shouldn't undersell free housing. \$3500/month mentioned, studio \$2300/month. Living arrangements may include filing taxes per Ellen McBride.

Domenick Cimina asks if Jim Previte is a Town Employee. Dennis Sheehan answers contract employee. Income benefit the Town may need to consider. Ellen McBride would like there to be someone who preserves the park.

Ellen McBride would tear building down if she could, lots of opportunities.

Ellen McBride mentions dogs off leash, dogs used to not be allowed at Whip Hill, dog doo should go with you. Jeanne Craigie mentions barrels for poop collection at site visit. Megan Day says there is no enforcement. Culture



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says people can do what they want. Signage is graffiti'd, not enforced keep dog on leash. Citation of leash laws at Whip Hill, poop penalty, Ellen McBride thinks education and signage.

Domenick Cimina asks how we would like to proceed. Richard Jackson suggests we meet more frequently. Domenick Cimina would like to get the job posted. Jen Enck suggests reaching out to colleges. Jessica Gerke thinks an advanced degree person would be fine. Megan Day thinks we should talk to AJ Jamogchian and his visions for property.

Jeanne Craigie thinks we should ask AJ Jamogchian if he is willing to stay on past August 6, 2025. Motion made by Jeanne Craigie for Domenick Cimina to speak to AJ Jamogchian seconded by Jessica Gerke roll call 7/0 Domenick Cimina, Jeanne Craigie, Jessica Gerke, Megan Day, Richard Jackson, Jeremy Zasowski, Jen Enck.

Evaluation of AJ Jamogchian from this contract suggested by Megan Day. Richard Jackson asks how long AJ Jamogchian has been there, answered 20 years.

Inventory of what is in building suggested by Jeanne Craigie. Ellen McBride suggests everything upstairs is Jim Prevites, downstairs is Towns, broom swept, it may be more of an issue that Jim Previte takes his stuff. Jeremy Zasowski and Domenick Cimina will visit property to assess.

Megan Day thinks there should be a zoom link for the meetings. Jeremy Zasowski asks if Commission will be meeting weekly. Ellen McBride asks if meetings will be televised? Jen Enck mentions transparency in Town. Jeanne Craigie mentions Amy from Stoneham TVs schedule. Dennis Sheehan mentions some meetings with employees may be less important to televise. Megan Day says as committee members we have to be careful to respond on social media, Jeanne Craigie says a fact can be stated online.

Jeremy Zasowski caretaker and stewardship manager, running programs, conservation agent, wetland scientist, writing grants, property maintenance trails and safety, nature center group leading and organization.

Ellen McBride mentions calling other towns to find out about caretakers.

Dennis Sheehan step two might be agent role after caretaker role defined. Megan Day says must haves versus nice to have. Jessica Gerke thinks we need to determine what we want before we post role.

Jeremy Zasowski where do we want to expand? Conservation programs, meeting events?

Megan Day maybe we tweak, education center from 1974 talks about environmental education. What is most important to us in this position?

Dennis Sheehan says job descriptions on Town side. Domenick Cimina would like to post soon.

Meet to decide what Commission wants in job description, Dennis Sheehan suggests sending comments ahead of meeting, Jessica Gerke suggests ahead of time we look at job descriptions. Ellen McBride suggests deciding whether it's a paid position or not.



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Domenick Cimina says Commission in charge of process. Dennis Sheehan suggests town administrative support. Cori, town of Stoneham employment application, interviews could be a screening committee and finalists come to full committee.

Megan Day asks if we are posting a paid position. Dennis Sheehan responds conservation agent duties different than this. Jeremy Zasowski if we expand current caretaker role would town fund? Dennis Sheehan apartment around \$3000/month with 20 hours of work per week. Tax liability for rent unknown. Dennis Sheehan will talk to Bob Galvin next Monday about this.

Jeremy Zasowski part time caretaker if we expand role may need to expand pay. Jessica Gerke says we have no idea how long they actually spend caretaking.

31 acres of land, trails maintenance, property needs to be maintained.

Zoom meeting with tech school June 5, 2025 for Whip Hill per Jessica Gerke. Boy Scouts per Jeanne Craigie did not pan out.

Next Meeting June 9, 2025 6pm- invite Jim Previte and AJ Jamogchian to meeting.

30 days notice to leave property.

Motion to close meeting by Jeremy Zasowski seconded by Jeanne Craigie Roll call yes 7/0 Domenick Cimina, Jeanne Craigie, Jessica Gerke, Megan Day, Richard Jackson, Jeremy Zasowski, Jen Enck