

TOWN OF
M A S S A C H U S E T T S

Town Hall
35 Central Street

Stoneham Conservation Commission
781-279-2696

**STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 27 2023 REMOTE 7 PM**

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/391559389>

Phone Access Code: 391-559-389 United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Jessica Gerke, Alex Rozycki, Megan Day, Robert Fotino, Domenick Cimina and Norman L'Esperance. Joined by Martin Wantman.

DISCUSSION

Conservation Commission Organization

Chair/Co chair/Vice

Appointments to Storm water, Bylaw Review, Tree committee liaison

Jessica Gerke opens meeting talking about Committee organization. Jessica Gerke is Interim Chair. Megan Day nominates Alex Rozycki as co chair. Alex Rozycki suggests talking about roles of previous chairs.

Megan Day will continue with Tree Committee. Domenick Cimina seconds Megan Day continuing on as tree committee. Roll call Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Megan Day, Robert Fotino, Domenick Cimina and Jessica Gerke yes 6/0

Alex Rozycki asks how often committees meet. Jen DeCourcy says she can find out schedule. Alex Rozycki asks what will happen if position is unfilled. Jen DeCourcy says will default to chair. Megan Day says bylaw is very important. Alex Rozycki says he doesn't want to do all 3 things, and doesn't want to take on all Ellen McBride and Bob Parsons did. Alex Rozycki does have a background in both bylaw and storm water, offers to co chair. Jess Gerke takes on bylaw, Alex Rozycki says storm water decision next meeting. Jess Gerke asks if anyone else in interested in storm water and we will get more information about commitment.

Megan Day says she would default to people's expertise, does think its important to have representation. Megan Day nominates Jessica Gerke for bylaw, Alex Rozycki seconds. Roll call Rob Fotino, Domenick Cimina, Alex Rozycki, Megan Day, Jessica Gerke and Norman L'Esperance yes 6/0

Jessica Gerke motions for Alex Rozycki as co chair Megan Day seconds Roll call Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Domenick Cimina, Megan Day, Rob Fotino and Jessica Gerke 6/0

Whip Hill

Garden Club requests electrical work

Transition 2 prong outlets to grounded 3 prong outlets. DPW estimate Quinn Electric upcoming. Norman L'Esperance mentions bringing electric up to code. Alex Rozycki says electrical upgrade could be very expensive. Megan Day asks for punch list, has Jim Previte and Ellen McBride been consulted. Alex Rozycki asks about Jim Previte and AJ's role. Megan Day says they are co caretakers, if we could have a list from Whip Hill of repairs. Looking for context as to why electrical needs to be upgraded. Alex Rozycki asking if this is safe. Norman L'Esperance says perhaps building or wiring inspector could be involved. Alex Rozycki suggests update on trust funding and list of maintenance projects with estimates and quotes. Town meeting may need to be involved for funds allocation. Domenick Cimina asks how they went from window washing to electrical repairs. Speculation of someone bringing a plug that didn't fit an outlet, or getting shocked. Norman L'Esperance talks about rewiring. Domenick Cimina agrees we should get an estimate but it may be thousands of dollars. Alex Rozycki asks about Town Manager and Administrator of Trust. Megan Day says Dan Towse transferred to Ellen McBride. What is Town's responsibility, Ellen McBride is Administrator and large requests would go to Town Meeting, may need to involve attorney and Town Manager.

Jessica Gerke looking for list of needs for the site, funding of emergency projects, ongoing maintenance, needed upgrades, involve Ellen McBride. Conservation Commission determines who lives in the house, we don't have job description and defines who is responsible for what example window washing not caretakers' responsibility.

Alex Rozycki thinks we need Attorney Galvin's input on liability to Town. Can't authorize funding to Garden Club.

Jessica Gerke will follow up.

Miscellaneous

Future Agenda Items

Martin Wantman 20 Gerald Rd, represented by Attorney Houghton. Commissioners signed extension order of conditions 2 years ago. Property victim of Weiss farm/Corcoran. Property under water for 5 years. Trying to market his property, unable to in its current state. Address issues with litigation. Looking for assurances to give 3 years to sell his property when water is gone. Flooding on property. Town counsel will be consulted. Alex Rozycki said Martin Wantman saw an opportunity as people have left the board.

Alex Rozycki says not on the agenda.

Jessica Gerke says to add to future agenda Mr. Wantman should contact Conservation office.

Alex Rozycki makes motion to close public hearing. Seconded by Norman L'Esperance. Roll call yes Alex Rozycki, Norman L'Esperance, Domenick Cimina, Megan Day, Jessica Gerke, and Robert Fotino 6/0

Approve Meeting Minutes from January 30, 2023 and Executive Session minutes from January 30, 2023

Alex Rozycki makes motion to approve meeting minutes 1/30/23 for both meetings seconded by Norman L'Esperance. Roll call yes all Domenick Cimina, Megan Day, Jessica Gerke, Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki and Rob Fotino 6/0

Warrant article to prohibit dogs from public spaces. Conservation is supposed to oversee open space in Stoneham.

Alex Rozycki suggests we add as future agenda item. Doesn't like the idea of other people writing bylaws that concern conservation land.

Language is vague, will not impact Whip Hill.

Brookbridge may be impacted as lands we have oversight of per Megan Day.

Rob Fotino says wording of a leashed dog can not go on athletic field, precludes most parks in town, the only place left is Whip Hill.

Alex Rozycki looked at Reading bylaw and allow dogs to be under voice command by owner, only allowed up to 3 dogs, allow dogs off leash if under control. Sending all the dogs to Whip Hill isn't a good solution.

Jessica Gerke says current bylaw dogs do have to be leashed. Change is where dogs are allowed to be walked.

Concern about cemeteries, playgrounds and athletic fields, dog waste as issue. Alex Rozycki asks about enforcement. Jessica Gerke talks about dogs on fields when not in use.

Rob Fotino goes up to Broadway and Pomeworth, Beacon Street used as dog park now where dogs are allowed to run loose. Cuts out walking your dog on a leash except for Whip Hill or the Common.

Individual standpoint as citizens versus Conservation standpoint, may drive traffic to Whip Hill with waste management.

Alex Rozycki wetlands behind high school you can't get to without going thru high school.

Discussion of this for next meeting. Invite petitioner suggested by Megan Day.

Conservation oversees open space in town.

Motion to adjourn by Norman L'Esperance and Alex Rozycki seconds. Roll call yes Norman L'Esperance, Alex Rozycki, Domenick Cimina, Megan Day, Jessica Gerke and Robert Fotino 6/0

Next Meeting March 20, 2023