



**PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
*December 14, 2024*

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**Location and Time:** Location and time: meeting was opened at 7:04 PM at the White Building (John Bauer Senior Center 17 West St.)

**Attendance:**

Commissioners: Mike Voorhis, MV, Chair; Bob Ferguson, BF, Commissioner; Jim Robert, JR, Commissioner; Donmarie Sespaniak, DS, Commissioner; Jason Lambert, JL, Commissioner; Commissioner; Holly Robert, HR, Associate Commissioner; Douglas Dillon, DD, Conservation Agent

**Others present:**

Kevin Quinn, Quinn Engineering; Richard Fenton, Paxton Land Trust.

**Minutes:**

DS moved to accept the minutes as revised, JR seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Bills:**

Conservation agent Douglas Dylan worked 14 hours for a total of \$438.34. JR moved to pay Mr. Dylan; JL seconded. All in favor none opposed.

**Correspondence received:**

The Boy Scouts of America sent an updated forest cutting plan.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance 7 Briarcliff**

Kevin Quinn of Quinn Engineering informed the commission that the home was sold before the septic system was built. There is a stream near the system which required a high mound for proper drainage. Mr. Quinn reported that the site looked good when he visited. Mr. Dylan also visited and said the system looked good to him. The original plan was done in 2016 and EcoTec completed the wetland deliniation. JR moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance, DS seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Other business:**

**Open Space plan:**

Mr. Fenton of the Paxton Land Trust presented the current status of the Paxton Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan has expired and was last revised in 2014 at 2015. Several conservation areas have been added specifically, Muir Meadow and the Asnebumskit area. One reason to update the plan is that the Greater Worcester Land Trust needs a valid plan to apply for state grants. Revision will also allow other properties to be considered for conservation. A total rewrite is not needed according to former Paxton conservation agent Mia McDonald. Paxton Land Trust represented by Mr. Fenton recommended that we update to make the plan current. He provided relevant digital documentation on compact disc. An update should address and correct any discrepancies such as any pertaining to the bylaw which was approved after the most recent

plan. HR suggested a subcommittee might be needed. MV suggested that a subcommittee could cause the process to be delayed. DS moved for the conservation commission to start working on renewing this plan. JL seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Sites Visited:**

313 Richards Ave.

On 12/3/23 DD visited the property with MV. The property owner, Mr. Love, is concerned that drainage from the barn is not draining to the replication area properly. MV informed Mr. Love that the Notice of Intent would be needed. JR reported that restoration area was ordered by DCR and DEP and not the conservation commission.

**Updates on previous issues:**

DD reported that the town wants all employees to submit timesheets every 2 weeks rather than monthly. MV suggested that the commission could authorize the chair (MV) to sign off more frequently, i.e. every 2 weeks, rather than at meetings which are held monthly. BF moved to authorize the chair of the commission to sign off agent timesheets as needed. DS seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Budget:**

There are 2 compensation related line items in the budget. One is for the Agent. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is for the Clerk. Only the Agent is currently compensated. JL moved to merge the 2 line items

**Fee changes:**

MV and DD discussed the process with the town clerk. Town clerk said that there must be a public hearing at our regular meetings which is advertised in advance to change fees.

**Dumping:**

Yard waste was dumped in the culverts/drains at all Old Lantern circle and also at Knollwood. JR also reported dumping on Franklin Street but this is not conservation land. MV will look for the letter that was previously sent to area residents. We discussed that we should notify residents by letter that dumping in wetlands or culverts is not permitted prior to taking any further action. JL will request that DPW put up signs if there are none at Old Lantern.

JR moved to close the meeting, DS seconded, all present were in favor, none opposed.  
The meeting was closed at 8: 31 PM

Next meetings,  
Thursday, January 11, 2024 ; Thursday, February 8, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "F".

Robert Ferguson, Conservation Commissioner