

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2025

Remote meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Chair Crystal Kelly, Carolyn Nielsen, Bob Mosher, Bob Hidell, Tom Roby, Nina Villanova and Laurie Freeman

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Shannon Palmer – Conservation Officer & Administrative Assistant Natashja Molina

Chair Crystal Kelly opened the meeting at 7:01PM and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.”

Business Items:

1. Minutes

11/4/2024 - Commissioner Nielsen made a motion seconded by Commissioner Villanova to approve minutes from the 11/4/2024 meeting as drafted. The motion passed by a roll call vote 4-0-2.

In Favor: Carolyn Nielsen, Tom Roby, Laurie Freeman, and Nina Villanova

Opposed: None

Abstained: Crystal Kelly and Bob Hidell

Commissioner Bob Mosher joined at 7:02PM

2. Requests for Certificate of Compliance

a) CONT. 171 Otis Street, DEP No.034-1216, Gary Jacobson (from 1/27/25)

Vote: Commissioner Hidell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, to continue consideration of the Request for Certificate of Compliance for 171 Otis Street, DEP No. 034-1216, at request of the applicant to March 3, 2025 at 7PM. The motion passed by a roll call vote 7-0.

In Favor: Crystal Kelly, Carolyn Nielsen, Bob Mosher, Bob Hidell, Tom Roby, Nina Villanova and Laurie Freeman

Opposed: None

b) CONT. 171 Otis Street, DEP No. 034-1282, Gary Jacobson (from 1/27/25)

Vote: Commissioner Nielsen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mosher, to continue consideration of the Request for Certificate of Compliance for 171 Otis Street, DEP No. 034-1282 at request of applicant to March 3, 2025 at 7PM. The motion passed by a roll call vote 7-0.

In Favor: Crystal Kelly, Carolyn Nielsen, Bob Mosher, Bob Hidell, Tom Roby, Nina Villanova and Laurie Freeman

Opposed: None

Chair Kelly opened the discussion to members of the public. No member of the public came forward.

Vote: Commissioner Freeman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Villanova, to continue the public hearing, with consent of the applicant, to March 3, 2025 at 7PM. The motion passed by a roll call vote 7-0.

In Favor: Crystal Kelly, Carolyn Nielsen, Bob Mosher, Bob Hidell, Tom Roby, Nina Villanova and Laurie Freeman

Opposed: None

Other Business:

1. 20 Broad Cove Road, Doug Karo, Violation Notice- Determination on Notice of Intent: The applicant's legal Team requested a continuance on the discussion. The Commission agreed.
2. Potential Plymouth River Land Acquisition- Article 97 land swap for HCAL (Senior Center) land
Ms. Palmer presented to the Commission an opportunity to acquire a parcel of land adjacent to existing conservation land. Commissioner Nielsen noted several walking trails in that area. JR Frey, Town Engineer, was present on the meeting and noted a survey would be conducted on the land. After discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed they are interested in the land swap.
3. Vote to accept land donation- 145 Hersey Street, Gretchen Amonte
Ms. Palmer noted a continuance was requested to allow for legal counsel to do their due diligence.
4. Conservation Officer Updates:
Revision to July 2025 meeting dates
Ms. Palmer asked the Commission the level of involvement they wanted regarding the Straits Pond tidal gate project – Commission agreed they would like a brief overview / updates, budgeting decisions to be left up to staff.

Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Nielsen moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mosher seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM

Approved on: March 3, 2025