

**Acton Conservation Commission**

Meeting Minutes

October 15 2025

6:15 PM

Room 204 & Zoom

**Present:** Terry Maitland (Chair), James Colman (Vice-Chair), Peter Hocknell, Kate Warwick, Amy Green,

**Absent:** Jillian Peters, Zywia Chadzynska

**Conservation Agent:** Olivia Barksdale

**Public Concerns and Regular Business**

**Hearing opened: 6:16pm**

**6:17PM      Public Concerns Kelley's Corner Erosion**

Chair Terry Maitland opened with a discussion about Kelly's Corner. He noted that although they were not coming in for a presentation, it was included in the agenda to document actions taken. The Commission had expected representatives to attend. Amy Green reported on site visits. She expressed frustration about communication issues regarding sidewalk work, noting they had requested information for almost a month without response. She stated that if it had been a private contractor, they likely would have shut down the project due to communication problems.

Amy explained that the wall across from Not Your Average Joe's appeared to have encroachment beyond erosion controls. While it was currently stable, there was a gully about 3-4 feet deep with a pine tree in the middle. She noted that despite promises to fix it, the issue remained unresolved. At the Stop and Shop area, riprap had been placed into the wetland, though not by much. She mentioned that erosion controls had been beefed up in some areas. Amy raised concerns about not receiving SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) reports. She noted issues at Roche Brothers including more riprap than shown on plans, silt fence acting as a retaining wall, and the potential for riprap to enter wetlands if the silt fence fails.

The Commission discussed requesting as-built plans for the three areas of concern. Amy suggested sending a letter to John, MIG, and DOT outlining their concerns about direct impacts, erosion impacts, and lack of responsiveness, with a warning that an enforcement order could be considered if issues aren't addressed.

**6:30PM      Notice of Intent–Public Hearing-60 Powder Mill Road**

Continued November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15

**6:30PM      Notice of Intent–Public Hearing-86 Hayward Road**

Continued November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:20

## **6:33PM      Hazard Tree Application – 58 Brucewood Road E**

Wellington Dornevil presented his tree removal request, providing photos of trees to be removed or trimmed. The Commission worked to clarify which trees were being requested for removal versus trimming, as the documentation was not clearly labeled.

After reviewing the photos, the Commission identified:

- 3 living trees to be fully removed
- 2 partial trees to be removed (already topped)
- 1 dead tree to be removed
- 2 trees to be pruned only
- 7 trees had already been removed previously

The Commission discussed the proposed mitigation plan which included:

- 5 oak trees
- 19 Leyland Green cypress trees
- 15 shrubs (elderberry and witch hazel)

James C Colman moved to allow the identified trees removed and to approve the mitigation plan as presented, with the area east of the driveway to remain naturalized. The applicant was requested to follow up with the Commission in 2 years to show how the plantings were doing. Peter Hocknell seconded. The motion passed with Amy Green voting no.

## **7:05PM      Determination of Applicability- Public Hearing – Heath Hen Meadow**

Olivia Barksdale presented the request to install beaver deceivers at Heath Hen Meadow. The project would involve installing two 40-foot long, 15-inch diameter pipes that would run under a boardwalk to address beaver damming that was impacting a \$40,000 bridge built with CPC money. The pipes would lower water levels by approximately one foot. The Commission discussed whether this should have been filed as a Notice of Intent rather than a Request for Determination of Applicability since the work was in a wetland. Olivia explained they were following guidance from Beaver Solutions, the company installing the devices, who indicated that many conservation commissions accept RDAs for this type of limited work. James Colman argued that since the beavers had raised the water level about a foot, the proposal was essentially restoring the area to its condition when the bridge was installed. The Commission discussed whether this would constitute "altering" the wetland under regulations.

Peter Hocknell moved to issue a negative 2 determination for Heath Hen Meadow for the mitigation strategy described in the plan, with the note that this is a specific case of beaver activity where the intent is to restore it to what it was very recently in terms of the water level. James Colman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7:15PM      Determination of Applicability- Public Hearing – Guggins Brook**

Olivia Barksdale presented the request for beaver deceivers at Guggins Brook. This situation was more extreme, with beaver activity in 2 locations completely blocking access from Route 111 parking, with standing water 1-3 feet deep. The beavers had also dammed in front of the

"Troop 284 bridge" on water district property, causing water to back up toward houses where complaints had been received about high water. The plan included installing a 40-foot pipe with a deceiver to lower the water level by about 3 feet at the first location. At a second location downstream, another 40-foot pipe would be installed to lower water by about a foot. Overall, the system should drop water levels by about 2 feet, making trails passable and addressing upstream flooding concerns.

Peter Hocknell moved to issue a negative 2 determination for the plan as well, including the 40-foot extension, leaving the existing failed beaver receiver in place upstream, and installing a replacement pipe and downstream mitigation to install the beaver deceiver to solve the overflow situation with the berm and the 2-foot culvert, with the same caveat that this is being done specifically to mitigate against recent beaver activity and protect infrastructure. James Colman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7:25PM      Certificate of Compliance- 64 Washington Road**

Olivia Barksdale reported that the grass at 64 Washington Road was growing beautifully following the septic system work. There were no conditions on this property. Terry Maitland moved to issue the certificate of compliance. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **7: 27 PM Administrative Updates**

#### **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes**

No minutes available

#### **Review Standard Conditions**

Item was not discussed

#### **Review Hazard Tree Policy**

Item was not discussed

#### **Enforcement Order updates**

Olivia Barksdale provided updates on enforcement orders:

- Arlington Street, the landowner had purchased and planted the permitted species.
- Kinsley Road, they learned that the house had been foreclosed. Olivia had contacted a potential buyer/seller to inform them of the Commission's involvement.
- Bellows Pond, they were waiting for monitoring reports and would follow up with Bruce.

### **7:32    Close Hearing**

The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Terry Maitland, seconded and approved

**Documents and exhibits used at this meeting**  
: <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19629>

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10-15-2025 Meeting Information

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Title

10-15-2025.pdf

2024-10-21 Kelly's Corner across from Roche Brothers.docx

2024-10-21 Kellys Corner vernal pool area.docx

Kelley's Corner Site visti 10 15 25.docx

58 Brucewood Road East

Tree Removal

60 Powder Mill NOI

Parking lot update

64 Washington COC

Septic replacement

86 Hayward Road NOI

Septic system/ deck replacement/trees

Guggins Brook RDA

Beaver Deceiver

Heath Hen Meadow RDA

Beaver Deceiver

Owner

Modified Date

Size

Actions

abecerra

10/10/25

228 KB

obarksdale

10/14/25

4 MB

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10/14/25

2 MB

obarksdale

10/15/25

624 KB

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