

Andover Conservation Commission  
Tuesday June 5, 2018  
Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:06p by Mike Palazzi, Commission Chair.  
Members present: Carrie Crompton, Gary Gile, Maryann Gile, Meghan Lally, Mike Palazzi, and Scott Warren

Agenda items:

1. Discussion on land given back to town from State

A map of the area of discussion was provided to the commission members.

A copy of the limitations of the land use was circulated among members; a copy was to be scanned and distributed to the members after the meeting.

Discussion:

- Background: a potential buyer had inquired about purchasing a parcel from the town. The parcel that the potential buyer was interested in abutted both the Hop River and Bear Swamp Brook. The history of the land in discussion was reviewed: the parcels had been acquired by the State via eminent domain as part of the Route 6 expressway project; however the project did not come to fruition. Several property owners purchased their land back from the state; the town is currently the land owner of the remaining parcels.
- It was noted that the CRCOG website allows individuals to view parcels, including recent ownership information.
- The feasibility of conducting a natural resource inventory on the land was discussed.

Action Item:

- The commission agreed to draft a position statement to the Board of Selectman regarding the potential conservation vs. other uses of the parcels along the former proposed Route 6 expressway.

2. Vegetation management plan for Hop River ball field trail

Discussion:

- Mike provided the commission with a summary of the meeting with Hank Gruner:

The site is recognized as a parcel of important natural resource significance to the town. Mr. Gruner's primary recommendations included:

- o Conducting clearing activities during the fall/winter only
- o Limiting clearing methods to those involving hand tools
- o Limiting removal of streamside vegetation; marking off select access points for fishermen to be maintained
- o Planting new vegetation in areas determined to be important nesting areas to wildlife

- Carrie reported on the current trail conditions. There is no evidence of additional clearing on the parcel. The plants have grown back considerably.

Action Items:

- Resume maintenance activities in the fall after critical wildlife nesting/breeding periods. Work with interested P&Z/BWA members to maintain a 2-3 foot trail along the river.

### 3. Andover Pollinator Pathway

Discussion:

- Maryann provided a report: it is too late to pursue the project this year; suggested organizing the effort over the winter in order to roll out at the library next spring.
- Gary reported that seeds at Ocean State cost approximately \$1.75-2.40 per pack.
- A discussion ensued about possible partnerships with other town committees. It was agreed that there was a desire to emphasize the educational aspect of the project.

Action Items:

- Work with the library to arrange an educational book display in the spring. Purchase seeds to provide to interested patrons.

### 4. Approval of May Minutes

Carrie Crompton motioned to approve the May 29, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Palazzi. Discussion ensued; it was agreed the minutes would be amended to reflect the attendance of Gary Gile at the meeting. The motion passed 5/0/0.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018. The agenda was discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Warren at 8:17p. Motion seconded by Carrie Crompton. All voted in favor; no discussion. Motion passed 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meghan Lally

The minutes are subject to approval by the Andover Conservation Commission.