

**RECEIVED**

**ACTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MAY 15, 2014 at 7:15 pm, Acton Town Hall Room 121  
Minutes of Special Meeting**

**JUN 6 2014  
TOWN CLERK  
ACTON**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Terry Maitland, Tom Arnold, Andrew Magee, Jim Colman, Theresa Portante-Lyle, Amy Green

**NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR:** Tom Tidman

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Bettina Abe

**VISITORS:** Paul Malchodi

Meeting called to order at 7:15.

Mr. Maitland stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and potentially draft a set of special conditions to be included with the Order of Conditions for the construction of the approximately 5 mile stretch of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail that will run through Acton, should the Commission vote to approve the project. Special conditions applied by the towns of Westford and Chelmsford for their portions of the trail were circulated prior to the meeting to be used as models where appropriate.

Mr. Arnold expressed his concern that the rail trail be kept as narrow as possible so the character of the town would be preserved. He was also concerned that more trees were being removed than necessary, especially down the slopes of the right of way. Mr. Magee commented that planning for the Rail Trail has already gone through a lengthy process and the town has had a number of years to review the plan.

Ms. Green wanted certainty that the town would be involved with the process from the time the contractor is hired and the limit of work defined until its completion. She also expressed the need for the Commission to identify and mark trees that could be saved. Ms. Portante-Lyle mentioned that this requires on-site monitoring throughout the duration of the construction process, necessitating multiple inspections as the project progresses.

The Commission will walk the site with DOT and identify invasives that require removal. DOT would be responsible for removal. Mr. Colman inquired about method that would be used and was told that they would be treated with herbicide, painted on the cut surfaces. Ms. Green wanted to ensure the hiring of a wetlands monitor with at least 10 years experience. From Westford's condition #22: The Wetlands monitor should be authorized to stop the contractor in order to talk to the Commission, as well as authority to consult with the Commission.

There were several suggestions for mitigation that included the construction of a rain garden at NARA picnic pavilion for control of storm water runoff, and planting shrubs in the compensatory flood storage areas. The Commission also discussed an endowment fund being established for the routine maintenance once the completed trail is handed over to the town.

A comprehensive draft of the suggested conditions will be submitted to the Commission for review.

Meeting adjourned 9:22

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Terry Maitland  
Chairperson

**Town of Acton  
Conservation Commission  
Amended**

Date: May 15, 2014

Place: Room 121 Acton Town Hall

Time: 6:45 PM changed to 7:15PM

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**MEETING AGENDA**

- **Draft Order of Conditions: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**
- **Signatures for Order of Conditions: 214 Newtown Road**

