

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2014**

The Conservation Commission held a meeting on February 25, 2014 in the Conference Room at the Town Office Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Orrall at 7:03 p.m. Members present were Robert Bouchard, Joseph Chamberlain, Linda Grubb and Martha Schroeder (exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m.). Sarah Kulakovich, associate member and Jennifer Jewell, recording secretary were also present.

Vigers Rules and Regulations

It was noted that the changes suggested at the February 11, 2014 have been made to the Vigers Rules and Regulations. All organized activities will require advanced permission and/or a permit. The Vigers property is already open but these Rules and Regulations will establish controls, help to maintain the trails, and provide the ability to offer small programs.

Peter Panettieri, abutter, expressed concern regarding the parking and the amount of use the property might see. The commission noted that the parking area will not be expanded and that limitation will also serve to restrict the usage of the site. Ms. Kulakovich stated that volunteers have already expressed interest in clearing and maintaining the property. The Town will paint a crosswalk if usage increases.

There are no water related activities proposed or allowed on the property. Mr. Panettieri noted that the proposed Rules and Regulations differ from what was originally in place when the Town took ownership of the site in 1968. It was stated that the 1970 agreement with the Boy Scouts was used as a reference for the current document. The purchase/transfer of ownership was discussed. Upon motion made by Member Chamberlain and seconded by Member Grubb the Commission

VOTED: To accept the proposed Vigers Conservation Area Rules and Regulations as modified on February 11, 2014. Unanimous vote.

Cover Letter

There was discussion regarding the authorization to oversee the property and there was question as to which permits would require the approval of the Commission. It was noted that there is parking for 8 cars, according to Jeremy Peck, Superintendent of Streets. If the area behind the building is cleared, it would allow for additional parking.

Application

It was decided that the suggestion to carpool would not be included in the application as the amount of parking would ensure the number of participants is limited.

Permit

There was discussion about maintenance and it was noted that the Highway Department cleans the cemeteries under the direction of the Cemetery Commission. Campfires will not be allowed on the property. Sue Corman, abutter, requested clarification on the proposed fines and how they would be enforced. The ability of the Commission to enforce the rules and collect fines was discussed. It was stated that if there is a question regarding persons on the property the police will have the ability to contact the coordinator and verify whether the activity has been permitted. Ms. Kulakovich noted that when a property is in use there is less chance of vandalism. There was question as to who would serve as the signatory to approve applications and issue permits. Chairman Bouchard suggested the Commission request feedback from the Police

Department if enforcement becomes an issue. It was stated that port-a-potties will be used if necessary for a group. Gregg Siebert, abutter, questioned whether there was a volunteer group in place. Ms. Kulakovich stated that the Friends of Vigers group has been established and that group will help maintain the property and will assist with the programs. It was noted that some sort of staff, either a Friends member, volunteer or Commissioner will be on-site during activities. Currently trail maintenance is taking place with the help of the Friends and various town resources.

Member Grubb suggested that Ms. Kulakovich serve as the representative for the Commission. Copies of permits will be forwarded to the Town Administrator and the Police Department. A binder will be kept in the Conservation Commission office with all of the applications and issued permits, as well as an events calendar.

Upon motion made by Member Schroeder and seconded by Member Chamberlain the Commission

VOTED: To authorize Sarah Kulakovich to process the Vigers Permit Applications and to determine which applications will require further review by the Commission. All permits must be signed by the Conservation Commission. Unanimous vote.

Vigers Conservation Area Site

There was discussion regarding the installation of a kiosk on the property. Ms. Kulakovich has secured volunteer labor but there is a materials cost of \$400.00. It was suggested that a student working in a surveying program be utilized to establish the property line, which would enable the Commission to erect 'No Hunting' signs along the perimeter.

Passive recreation opportunities like a geo-cache or a photo hunt were mentioned.

It was suggested that the Commission obtain estimates for both demolition and rehabilitation of the Boy Scout House. It was stated that a demolition would require the foundation to be filled. The Building Inspector visited the site with Member Chamberlain and felt the building could be repaired. Ms. Kulakovich expressed concern that any use of the building might divert programs and funds from activities that might take place at the Peach Barn on Betty's Neck. It was also the opinion of Ms. Kulakovich that a platform or pavilion might serve the site better as it provides more immediate access to the outdoors.

Ms. Kulakovich will confirm whether there is any risk of liability for volunteers that might be using power tools for trail maintenance. She will also confirm whether a dedicated account will be necessary when fundraising donations are received.

It was stated that a press release regarding the discontinuation of bow-hunting will be submitted to the Middleboro Gazette, which will be followed by a press release to promote upcoming programs. Chairman Bouchard expressed concern that the Commission had no alternate location to suggest for bow-hunting.

8:45 p.m. Member Schroeder left the meeting, resulting in a lack of a quorum.

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Lakeville Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakeville Public Library Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ConCom Minutes-february 25 2014final