



# Town of Griswold



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GRISWOLD INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION & AQUIFER PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGULAR MEETING  
GRISWOLD TOWN HALL

APPROVED MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 2016

I. **Regular Meeting (7:30 P.M.)**

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Courtland Kinnie called this regular meeting of the Griswold Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Conservation Commission to order on October 20, 2016 at 7:40 p.m.

2. **Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

**Present:** Courtland Kinnie, Robert Parrette, Lawrence Laidley, Gary Serdechny, Lauren Churchill, Town Planner Mario Tristany, WEO Peter Zvingilas, Recording Secretary Donna Szall

**Absent:** Clarence (Pete) Merrill, Glen Norman, Edward (Jay) Waitte, Alternates Kevin Franklin, Alex Grzelak,

C. Kinnie appointed L. Churchill to sit for J. Waitte. There was a quorum for this regular meeting.

3. **Written Comments**

There were no written comments.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

A. Approval of Minutes for the September 15, 2016 meeting.

C. Kinnie asked for approval of the minutes of August 18, 2016. D. Szall stated that it should read September 15, 2016. There was discussion of this matter. C. Kinnie asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2016.

**MOTION:** R. Parrette moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 15, 2016. G. Serdechny seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

L. Laidley arrived at 7:34 p.m.

5. **Applications**

There were no applications discussed under this item.

5. **Additional Business (New Applications)**

There was no additional business discussed under this item.

7. **Reports from the Enforcement Officer**

No activity to report by the enforcement officer. C. Kinnie asked if the work at Glasgow Pond by the residents who came before the commission has completed the work. P. Zvingilas stated no. He stated that there should still be work on the dam. M. Tristany stated that they were to send photographs of the completed work. P. Zvingilas stated that he will check the work. R. Parrette asked if the work on the pond for A. J Rounbehler on Sheldon Road had been inspected before the work was to start and you were satisfied with what was staked out. M. Tristany stated yes. P. Zvingilas stated yes.

8. **Old Business**

There was no old business.

## 9. New Business

- A. **Joseph R. Theroux, Forester, Notification of Timber Harvest at Property of Mystic Rod and Gun Club, Breakneck Hill/Lee Road, Griswold** for selection cut/crop tree management of 77,248 board feet. Estimated starting date of October 15, 2016.

C. Kinnie stated that there was a very detailed narrative in your packets. He asked Mr. Theroux to come up and make his presentation. Joseph Theroux, certified forester and wetlands agent for Lisbon and Voluntown. He is asking for a ruling that this was a permitted use by right and not a regulated activity of Section 4 of the Inland Wetlands Regulations.

He explained that a selected harvest at the Mystic Rod and Gun Club on the western portion that has not been cut in more than 25 years. He stated that there is an intermittent stream at goes into the pond. He stated that there will be four wetlands crossings using portable bridges and/or log corduroy to support the machine and prevent stirring up sediment. He stated that the soils are Ridgebury soils which are very rocky with little soil.

J. Theroux stated that they are planning to start this fall and things have been very dry and there is very little water running; it will continue during the winter months when it freezes solid. He stated that if job is held over to springtime it postponed to summer when it becomes dry again. He stated that when the operation is complete, the bridges and log corduroy will be removed and the area will be reseeded with a conservation mix or winter rye or both.

J. Theroux stated that it is a management plan where only 1.3 of the basal area will be removed that focuses on only over mature trees over 40 years old, poorly formed trees, inferior species to improve the forest. He asked for questions.

L. Churchill stated that she was trying to follow the map to locate the crossings and asked him to show were the work will be done. J. Theroux stated that only half the map was copies. C. Kinnie stated that the full map is in the file. J. Theroux showed where to work was on the full map to members in the breakneck hill location. L. Churchill asked about removing the mature trees. J. Theroux explained that very mature trees become very top heavy and causes the growth rings at the butt end of the tree to separate which allow mold and fungus to grow. L. Churchill asked if it happens and different times for different trees. J. Theroux stated yes, white oak can live for more than 200 years; and birch and maple have shorter lives because of brittle wood. P. Zvingilas stated that that soil is not great for trees. J. Theroux stated that it is bottom land and fertile, but as you go upslope, it becomes more arid and poorer quality trees.

P. Zvingilas asked how the logs would be trucked out. J. Theroux stated that he has to talk to DEEP to use Trail 2 to Route 49. There was discussion of this matter of Breakneck Hill Road and Lee Road.

L. Laidley asked if there were any endangered or threatened species out there. J. Theroux stated not that he knew of; but in any wetland is a potential endangered species habitat but that he did not believe so.

C. Kinnie asked about the statement of no harvest buffers as a term together. J. Theroux explained that buffer zones are usually 50 to 150 feet wide where no trees are being cut adjacent to property lines of adjacent land owners. There was discussion of this matter.

P. Zvingilas asked if there was a survey of the property. J. Theroux stated that there is a survey since the owners' had just purchases and abutting property. He showed the location on the map.

C. Kinnie asked for other questions from commission members. He stated that Mr. Theroux is looking for a jurisdictional ruling that this timber harvest meets Section 4 of our regulations as an agricultural activity. There was discussion of this matter. G. Serdechny asked if every tree was painted to be taken down. J. Theroux stated every tree to be taken down was marked and measured to arrive at the board feet figure based on a chart.

R. Parrette asked what DBH meant. J. Theroux stated that it was diameter at breast height for the measurements.

C. Kinnie asked for a motion. L. Laidley moved to approve the selection cut/crop tree management of 77,248 board feet for the property of Mystic Rod and Gun Club at Breakneck Hill and Lee Roads. L. Churchill seconded the motion. R. Parrette asked if the board feat referenced the 116 cords. C. Kinnie stated no, it includes firewood. L. Laidley amended his motion to approve the selection cut/crop tree management of 77,248 board feet and 116 cord timber harvests for the property of Mystic Rod and Gun Club at Breakneck Hill and Lee Roads. L. Churchill amended her second. All were in favor. The motion was carried. P. Zvingilas asked how many acres. J. Theroux

stated that it was 60 acres for the timber harvest. He asked for P. Zvingilas number to call when the project gets started. P. Zvingilas gave him his number.

**10. Communications**

**A. Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk, Request for 2017 Schedule of Meetings.**

C. Kinnie stated that this is the 2017 Schedule of Meetings. There was discussion of this matter.

**MOTION:** L. Laidley moved to approve the 2017 Schedule of Meetings. R. Parrette seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

**11. Reports from Members**

C. Kinnie stated that he had a phone call from Mr. Faulise regarding two clients with property on the pond who wants to put in poured concrete retaining walls due to damage from wave action in the narrows on the pond closest to the dam at Kenwood Estates. He stated that one of the retaining walls would be 200 ft. long. M. Tristany stated that DEEP prefers soft treatment for the shoreline. There was discussion of this matter including that the work is outside of the high water mark. P. Zvingilas stated that they could submit an application to the commission for review. C. Kinnie stated that the commission cannot be predisposed. There was consensus from the commission that applications be submitted.

C. Kinnie asked for other reports. There were no other reports.

**12. Conservation Commission Matters**

L. Churchill stated that all of the Selectmen of towns that had state forest property in Griswold, Voluntown and Sterling received an email from DEEP that due to the extensive exfoliation damage by Gypsy Moth Caterpillars that DEEP Forestry Division has identified 250 acres of State forest of damaged trees in 2016 and anticipates large scale tree mortality in this area in one to three years. DEEP recommends removing the stressed trees from 77 acres in 2017 and 59 acres in 2018. She read the email for the record. C. Kinnie asked if the damage was only in 2016 or was it in prior years. There was discussion of this matter. C. Kinnie stated that he was concerned about the statement of tree value and utility as the mortality takes hold; they want more value per log and to get the wood out before there is more damage. C. Kinnie asked if the Board of Selectmen have had a response to this. L. Churchill stated that she did not know; our Board of Selectmen has not informed us.

C. Kinnie asked if there were other conservation commission matters.

C. Kinnie asked M. Tristany when the State was planning to pull the car out of Glasgo Pond. M. Tristany stated that he will find out. C. Kinnie stated that the members should be informed when this removal will take place. C. Kinnie stated that there is debris at the ledges and would like to know if this debris will be removed along with the car because it is a danger to swimmers.

**13. Adjournment**

C. Kinnie asked for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** L. Laidley moved to adjourn. R. Parrette seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**III. Aquifer Protection Agency**

This Meeting was cancelled due to lack of applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall  
Recording Secretary