

Minutes of the Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting May 2, 2019, Post & Beam Brewery, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Jo Anne Carr, Swift Corwin, John Patterson, Francie Von Mertens,
Robert Wood

Harris Center property corner of Elm Street and Route 101

As holders of the conservation easement on the 3.36 acres, members discussed a potential transfer of the Harris Center property to the town for a new fire station.

Extensive wetlands on the property and a statement from Rodney Bartlett suggest the incursion would be minimal, but necessary to allow fire station relocation to the Community Center/DPW area.

Runoff from washing fire equipment, potentially with chemicals, and invasive buckthorn and phragmites were mentioned—treatment of both, including bio-retention treatment.

The main intent of the conservation easement, as stated in its Purposes section, was protecting a major town entrance from sprawl, a stated goal of the Master Plan at that time. MacDonalds and Rite Aid had looked at the parcel.

Members agreed that some incursion along the northern border would not impact the easement purpose relating to commercial sprawl, and that more information was needed about placement of the station.

In general, members were supportive of the concept pending more information.

Proposed new town wells in Sharon and Jaffrey

Relating to the proposed new wells, members agreed that conservation and therefore preservation of considerable watershed acreage was important; and also questioned whether project costs should or could be borne entirely by town water subscribers.

Members agreed that more information, including engineering costs and cost-sharing with Jaffrey, was needed before any town vote.

/fvm