



**TOWN OF MAYNARD**  
**Conservation Commission**

**Minutes 4/22/2020**

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[www.townofmaynard-ma.gov](http://www.townofmaynard-ma.gov)

**Commission Members Present:** M. John Dwyer, John Milhaven, Laura Mattei,

**Conservation Administrator:** Kaitlin Young

**Absent:** James Bullis, Chris Butler

**Others Present:** Eve Schluter from MA Fish and Wildlife

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**Meeting called to order at 6:38 by John Dwyer**

**Proposal for Expansion of Hunting in the Refuge**

Ms. Young explained that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to expand hunting at Oxbow, Assabet River, and Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuges. The proposal would allow – for the first time – hunting of coyote, fox, and bear at Assabet River Wildlife Refuge. She explained that there would be no increase in the geographic extent of hunting in the Maynard portion of the Refuge.

Eve Schluter from MA Fish and Wildlife was in attendance to explain how the state and federal government worked together on the hunting proposal. Ms. Schluter explained that the hunting of bear, coyote, and fox is allowed by the state, so the proposed hunting expansion would ensure that the Refuge has the same hunting allowances. She also explained that MA Fish and Wildlife did not believe that the expansion would negatively impact wildlife populations. Regarding safety, Ms. Schluter explained that statewide there are at most four hunting related accidents a year, and that MA Fish and Wildlife does not believe this will negatively impact the safety of other Refuge users. Ms. Schluter discussed the recently passed Wonton Waste law, which requires hunters to use their game for food, materials, etc. Ms. Mattei asked how bear, fox, and coyote was used per the provision, and Ms. Schluter said that they were oftentimes used for pelts and sometimes food.

Mr. Dwyer expressed his concern with safety of people using the abutting Rail Trail. Ms. Young offered to research hunting regulations to see how far away from the Rail Trail that hunting is allowed. The Commission expressed that overall they supported the cultural and recreational benefits of hunting, but that they did not understand the need for expanded hunting of animals not normally used for food, such as deer and turkey. The Commission agreed to continue the discussion at its next meeting.

**129 Parker Street Conservation Restriction Baseline Report**

The Commission reviewed the most recent version of the Conservation Restriction Baseline Report for the Conservation Restriction behind the 129 Parker Street Development. The Commission agreed that while improved, that there were areas of the Restriction that still did not have sufficient documentation. Ms. Young offered to go out into the field to take additional images to be added to the report. Ms. Mattei offered to go into the field with her. The Commission agreed to move forward in this manner.

**Adjourned** at 7:43 p.m.

*Ms. Mattei made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Butler, and passed unanimously.*

**Documents Submitted**

Remote Opening Script

USFW Hunting Proposal

129 Parker Street Baseline Report