



TOWN OF

HARWICH

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HARWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION – WORK SESSION MINUTES

TOWN HALL – GRIFFIN ROOM

FRIDAY, August 22, 2025 – 1:30 PM

RECEIVED
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2025 SEP -4 A 11: 39

Commissioners and Staff Present

Chairman John Ketchum, Mark Coleman, Sophia Pilling, Wayne Coulson, Conservation Administrator Amy Usowski

Commissioners Absent: Vivienne Muhall-Maguire

Ms. Usowski stated that the Conservation Commission always seeks to educate residents and the general public on conservation issues as well as offer other educational opportunities.

Presentation by Kristin Andres, Associate Director for Education and Outreach with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. Kristin will highlight drought-tolerant native plantings and their benefits to water quality, erosion control, and wildlife habitat.

Ms. Usowski introduced Ms. Kristin Andres, Associate Director for Education-Association to Preserve Cape Cod.

Ms. Andres presented her power point presentation entitled Caring for your Landscaping with Nature in Mind.

Ms. Andres spoke about eco-friendly landscaping practices and designs that homeowners can use to create environmentally responsible and sustainable outdoor spaces. She explained that prioritizing practices such as water conservation, reducing the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides and implementing plants, grasses, and trees native to Cape Cod, property owners can help the local ecology, protect water quality and safeguard animal habitat.

Ms. Andres spoke about the soil on Cape Cod and the background and specifics of various Cape Cod native plants and trees. She spoke about the steps to attaining a “Cape Cod” lawn.

Ms. Andres stated that the website entitled www.CapeCodNativePlants.com is an excellent resource for seeking information on types of native plants. She stated that homeowners should call their local nurseries to see if they have certain species available for sale.

Ms. Andres stated that the Town of Orleans just recently passed a by-law stating that native plants must now be used on all public town-owned lands.

Ms. Usowski thanked Ms. Andres for the wonderful presentation and stated she highlighted very well the importance of native landscaping. Ms. Usowski stated that she is also in the process of reverting her own landscape to natives.

Chairman Ketchum asked if there is a list of landscaping professionals who are more ecologically minded. Ms. Andres stated that people can email her to receive a list of landscaping professionals who are more ecologically minded.

Chairman Ketchum asked the about the type of landscape seen when it was managed by Native peoples over 400 years ago. Ms. Andres said that a writeup about historic landscape and vegetation was written through the National Seashore.

Chairman Ketchum asked for questions from the public.

Questions from the public concerned the following:

- Examples of local fern species.
- The use of native hydrangeas
- The planting of beach plum
- Training and education opportunities

Mr. Patrick Otton stated that it is people not in attendance at this meeting who need to hear this information. He questioned whether the Town could require Property developers to install native landscaping.

Ms. Usowski stated that in working with the Town Planner on projects in the past few years, she has made planting suggestions. She stated that on a recent Route 28 project, the developers came back with a planting plan that incorporated her many suggestions on native plantings.

It was noted that Ms. Andres can be contacted by email at kandres@apcc.com or through the APCC website.

Ms. Usowski stated that the Conservation Commission is looking for two new members and to contact her if anyone is interested in learning more about the opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Mr. Coulson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:39pm.

Mr. Coleman seconded.

Vote: 4-0

Motion carried; Meeting adjourned.

Attendees Present

Patrick Otton
Nancy Parrish
Vicky Kennelly
Taffy Aldrovandi
Carol Craig
Susan Cyr
Zoe Carlberg
Stephanie Johnson
Gudrun Scheffler
Susan Sajer
Gerie Schumann
Linda Holland
Bradford Bower
Tony Sciavi

Minutes Transcribed and Submitted by Lisa Shaw