

Conservation Commission – October 26, 2019

Members present were Mr. Freddy Friedman, Dr. John Schreiber, Mr. David Herrick & Mrs. Nanci Worthington.

Meeting was called to order at 9:52 AM.

Meeting minutes of September 21st 2019 were accepted as amended.

New Business:

Mintz District: Applicant filed a RDA for the purpose of removal of a row of trees and removal of invasive species management. Present for this hearing was Mr. Benjamin Naylor, Berkshire Engineering, Inc. Property location is 0 Hayes Hill Road. Mr. Naylor mentioned that the row of trees makes the area shady and the area is 150 feet or less in length and less than 50 trees. Dr. Schreiber is concerned about the area then being turned into an orchard which would include pesticides in the extent of 100 buffer zone, and if property owner would like to install an orchard then a new filing would have to be submitted to the Commission. Mr. Naylor mentioned that he doesn't know if the owner wants to install an orchard or not. Mr. Naylor amended the RDA to say the following: mitigation is also to include planting of native species through spreading of native seed mix or installation of native plug plantings as needed to achieve a permanent stable condition. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application with a negative #3 with the following condition: replacement of tree removal area with native species for mitigation purposes. Any future pesticide use for orchard should go the Conservation Commission for approval.

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that the Historical Commission has been notified about the Campbell Falls Bridge replacement and that they have completed a site visit to the bridge. Dr. Schreiber also mentioned that there is a different stone bridge that will be require restoration also on Campbell Falls Road that will need a catch basin, and which will need the Highway Department to stabilization. Dr. Schreiber also stated that the bank is not very stable, and he'll contact Mr. Mark Stinson, DEP to see what application needs to be submitted to the Conservation Commission. Note that the area of the stone bridge is not the bridge that the State will be replacing. Mr. Friedman will contact the Highway Superintendent to see about filing a RDA.

Old Business:

The Commission discussed the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act (BSMA) at Ms. Molly Crine had mentioned to them at their last meeting. A few of the members have been reading and reviewing the BSMA. The Commission discussed that it would be better to evaluate new construction that would be in the ridgelines only. It was noted that this Act wouldn't prohibit building but would require Cons. Comm. Permitting and review of impact on water and other resources. Dr. Schreiber and Mrs. Worthington will draft a potential bylaw with Ms. Crine for the Commission to review.

The commission reviewed the mail:

- FEMA – 156 Woodleigh Ave – to determine whether the structure is within special flood hazard area.
- MACC – new membership cards.
- Forest Cutting Plan – Hull Forestlands – South Sandisfield Rd & Idle Hour Rd – approved.
- Email from Rona Easton resigning from the Commission. A letter will be sent to Ms. Easton thanking her for servicing on the Commission.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for November 16th, 2019

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 10:46 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary