

Conservation Commission – May 19, 2022 in Zoom/Conference Call Meeting

Members present were Dr. John Schreiber, Co-Chair Chair, Mr. Freddy Friedman, Co-Chair, Mrs. Nanci Worthington, and Dr. Doug Hyde. Others present were Ms. Martha Bryan, Ms. Shannon Boomsma, Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenberg, Ms. Christin McDonough, Dr. Rong & Mr. William Hosier.

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM.

Meeting minutes of Minutes May 5th, 2022 were accepted as amended.

Rong/Hoffman Hearing: Present for this continued hearing was representative, Ms. Shannon Boomsma, property owner, Dr. Rong, abutter Mrs. Eugene Rosenberg. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of construction of boardwalk over BVW & pond. Property location is 476 Rhoades & Bailey Rd. Ms. Boomsma submitted a revised site plan to show the new driveway alignment, the new configuration takes account of the abutters concern about placement of the driveway. The new plan allows the first part of the driveway to be on a small jurisdictional area then curve into non jurisdictional area quickly. This avoids interference with the abutters and save an historic stone wall from being removed. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the plan and to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application with the following special conditions: Commission permitted to access and observe work during construction in jurisdictional areas. Dr. Rong thanked everyone for their support in this project.

Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Hearing: Present for this revised discussion was representative, Ms. Christ McDonough, SWCA Environmental Consultants. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that a clerical error occurred with the approved RDA from the prior meeting and the Commission needs to revise the RDA per DEP comment. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to revise the RDA approval to negative determination #2 & #3.

Gagnon Hearing: No one was present for this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so vote to continue to June meeting.

Alden Hearing: No one was present for this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so vote to continue to June meeting.

Old Business:

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that the berm on Canaan Southfield Rd has not been removed and the boarder of the pit operation pushed back yet as recommend by DEP and agreed to by the gravel pit operator. Mr. Hosier representation an abutter across the street stated that he feels they have had plenty of time to complete the push back of the berm. The Commission will monitor this and reach out to the gravel pit operator and discuss whether escalation in enforcement is required in the June meeting.

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that he has spoken to the property owner, Mr. Petersen regarding the property at 0 Mill River Great Barrington Road, in which a logging permit was approved back in the fall of 2021, and that a public joint meeting with occurred DCR, DEP, Commission members and others people were present. The outcome of the joint meeting was the understanding that a Forest Cutting Plan which approved by DCR that was in the 50 foot riverfront area shouldn't have been approved since it was actually under jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and DEP. To correct this situation in a manner also fair to the owner, a RDA was submitted for the purpose of proposed travel route to construct a small gravel pad area, stump removal and gravel transport, since the property owner would like to establish a camping ground. The RDA was approved with a negative #3 with the following conditions: replanting 50% of trees remove in excess of DCR approval with native trees at least 10 feet tall within the 200 foot riverfront area, silt fence and straw wattles to be around removal of a plank bridge, reseeding and removal of the logging road work to be completed by June 1st, and permission for the Commission to site visit once work is completed. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that he has noticed big equipment in the proposed travel route (driveway) and from his talk with Mr. Petersen the equipment is there to complete the gravel area and that the replanting of trees will take place in September.

New Business:

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that he has received correspondences from Mr. Matt Kollmer, Building Inspector. Mr. Kollmer suggested that the Commission sign off on all new construction/building permits. Both Mr. Freidman & Mrs. Worthington feel that the Building Inspector should be able to use Mass mapper system to see if there is any wetlands on the proposed property, and why the Commission need not sign off on building permits. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted unanimously to not sign off on all building permits. Rather the Commission would provide information and guidance in order to determine if wetlands were involved with the project and permitting was required. The Commission would like to invite the Building Inspector and the Board of Health Agent to their meeting in June to establish good communication.

Mr. Mark Carson has reached out to the Commission in regards to debris in the river and inquired if there is a way to handle this. Dr. Schreiber suggests that a blanket NOI be filed from the Highway Department. Mrs. Worthington will draft a short letter to respond to Mr. Carson.

The Commission reviewed mail – 1 Forest Cutting Plan – Freeman Elms Nominee Trust - Sisson Hill Rd – 44 acres.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 17th at 5PM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 5:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary