

Conservation Commission – November 16, 2019

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

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

Meeting minutes of October 26th 2019 were accepted as amended.

New Business:

Koerner Hearing: Applicants are abutters for the RDA filed for the purpose of alleged unauthorized gravel pit operation, excavation and removal, tree clearing and other unauthorized uses. Present for the applicant was Ms. Emily Renshaw, Esquire & Ms. Nicola Menchetti, Esquire of Morgan, and Lewis & Bockius LLP. Property location is Canaan Southfield Road. Ms. Renshaw stated that the property in question is owned by Grassmarket LLC and known by Assessor Map 415, Lot 71. Ms. Renshaw also mentioned that they believe an unauthorized large commercial gravel pit operation has grown extensively since 2003 to three (3) acres, and that a new driveway has been added, along with recent tree removal and large trucks enter & exiting the property at all hours, along with crushing and washing occurring. Ms. Renshaw also mentioned that there was no gravel pit in 2000 on Google Earth but appeared in 2003. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that from all the maps submitted to the Commission the area is at least 200 feet from the river and that since the Commission didn't have approval to site visit the property by the owner it is difficult to make a determination, and that the Commission can only act on Wetland issue and areas that are jurisdictional. Ms. Renshaw inquired if the Commission sought permission to access the property and Dr. Schreiber's response was that usually the applicant has an engineer handling the application so the Commission doesn't have to ask for permission to complete a site visit to the property since it is routinely granted. Ms. Renshaw requests the Commission to seek permission to enter the property and would like to continue this hearing. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing till next month meeting.

Rosenfeld Hearing: Applicant submitted a RDA for the purpose of construction of a private drinking water well, upgrade to a new septic system. Present for this hearing was Ms. Shannon Boomsma, White Engineering Inc. Property location is 563 Canaan Southfield Road. The Commission completed a site visit prior to the meeting. Ms. Boomsma mentioned that the plumbing will be outside of the buffer zone, erosion control will be in place along with a silt fence. Ms. Boomsma believes that work will be completed in the spring. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application has a negative #3 with no special conditions.

The commission reviewed the mail:

- Landkeepers Fall 2019 report.
- Forest Cutting Plan – McGarry – Sisson Hill Rd – 40 acres approved.
- Email from Chase Bernier of Natural Resources Project – peer review.

- MassDot – Application for Water Quality Certification – Campbell Falls Rd

Next regular meeting is scheduled for December 14th, 2019

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 10:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary