

Conservation Commission – January 16, 2021 Conference Call Meeting

Members present were Dr. John Schreiber, Vice Chair, Mrs. Nanci Worthington and Mr. David Herrick. Others on the conference call were Mr. James Kelly, Mr. Jackson Alberti, Ms. Martha Bryan and Mr. Mark Stinson, DEP circuit rider for the Western Massachusetts Region. It was mentioned that the meeting was being recorded.

Meeting was called to order at 9:36 AM.

Meeting minutes of December 12th, 2020 were accepted as amended.

New Business:

Lenherr Hearing: Contractor, Mr. Thomas Lipiczky emailed a request to continue this hearing till the next meeting so that Ms. Emily Stockman can comply more information. Mrs. Worthington mentioned that Mr. Friedman and she meet with the property owner for a site visit. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing till February meeting.

Jaynart 2005 Trust, Jayne Kurzman Trustee Hearing: Representative, Mr. James Kelly was present for this hearing. Property location is 14 Norfolk Road. Applicant submitted a RDA for the purpose of removing hazardous trees along driveway and lawn, prune limbs as needed, improve tree conditions along driveway and lawn. Mr. Kelly mentioned that they have worked with Ms. Emily Stockman. Mr. Kelly also stated that most of the driveway is within 200 feet of river front, and that there are 14 proposed trees for removal. Mrs. Worthington stated that from the site visit she noticed that many trees are in potential hazardous conditions. The Commission would like the plans to be amended to include replanting of native vegetation to offset the loss of canopy by tree removal in the 200 foot of the river front area. Mr. Stinson mentioned that there was a prior filing done in 1998, Mr. Kelly research the prior filing and it was for a different project. 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 as a negative #2 determination with the following condition: replacement of 100 square feet of canopy removal with native vegetation in another location will be performed.

Carmona/Tatlock: Representative, Mr. Jackson Alberti, Foresight Land Services, Inc. Property location is 0 Brewer Hill Road. Mr. Herrick mentioned that he has issued a 911 number and the number is 141. Applicant filed a NOI for the purpose of installing a gravel driveway and related site work. Mr. Jackson mentioned that he believes there is 29 acres and that there's 2 intermittent streams, and they will use straw bales, swales. Mr. Jackson also stated that the proposed gravel driveway will make several s curves – driveway will be a 12% grade, 13 feet wide. The Commission reviewed DEP comments and the response sent from Mr. Alberti to the comments. The Commission is requesting a formal contractor's plan to be submitted. The timing of the construction of the gravel driveway to coincide with dry season was also

requested. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing till February meeting.

The Commission reviewed and discussed an emergency certificate issued to 2290 Canaan Southfield Road. Reason for the emergency was a tree had fallen down and was threatening the bridge which is use to access the property of the home owner. Mr. Stinson mentioned that NHESP needs to be contacted by the requester since this is also habitat for endangered species. A special condition will be included that the stump and roots be left intact to reduce the impact and prevent erosion of the river front area.

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that Mr. Doug Hyde is interested in joining the Commission. After a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to recommend Mr. Hyde for appointment.

The Commission reviewed the email from Mr. David Johnson, Chair of the Becket Conservation Commission inquiring if the NM Conservation Commission would be interested in joining the Berkshire County Conservation Commissions (BCCC). A motion was made, seconded and so voted to join the BCCC.

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that the Commission should get back to working on the ridge line/Berkshire County Scenic Act. It was decided to request the Commission attend an upcoming Planning Board agenda to discuss both potential bylaws.

The Commission reviewed the one piece of mail – Forest Cutting Plan – Fleury – Sisson Hill Rd – 45+ acres – approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 9:30AM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 10:56AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary