

Town of Conway

Conservation Commission

Minutes

Date: June 22, 2021

Time: 7:00pm

Facilitator: Grace Larson

Location: Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Rd

In Attendance

Members: Bob Armstrong, Bob Nowak, Bruton Strange

Administrative Assistant: Lara De Lucca

Others in Attendance:

Matthew Kelly, Epsilon Associates (overseeing Eversource project) (via phone)

David Askew, Eversource (via phone)

Meeting Called to order by Grace Larson at 7:04 pm

Minutes from 6/8/2021:

- Motion to approve minutes by Grace, seconded by Bob N., approved 4-0-0.

Financial Matters –

- Checks Received: Kevin Combs: \$57.50

Motion to accept check by Grace, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0.

- Various invoices: Grace Larson \$266.60 (printing, ink, paper)

Bruton moves to approve for payment, seconded by Bob N, approved 3-0-1 (Grace abstaining). Bruton will submit.

BOH/Building Permits/Site Reviews

- 26 Cemetery Hill Rd – Garage foundation – 6.20 – need location on property

Small lot with no water resources on it. Waiting for location.

- 95 Elijah's Ride Drive – Foundation for work studio – signed off

- Wormser – 1015 Shelburne Falls Rd, Housing permit – signed off
- 234 Mathews Rd – New Bathroom/Laundry room addition – signed off
- 264 S. Shirkshire Rd – Replacement of existing kitchen wing, covered porch, add mud room – signed off

Forest Cutting Plans

- None

Mail/Announcements

- None

Misc. Matters

- **69 Main St RDA Appeal – DEP site visit 6/17/21**

David Cameron (DEP) says since Russ appealed, the entire project is on pause. Russ shouldn't do anything until the NOI is determined. Bruton will contact Russ to remind him of this, and that the RDA was to remove and rebuild, not just remove old foundation. If he wants to do something specific he will have to come back to discuss a new plan.

- **655 Roaring Brook Rd – DEP complaint – cutting vegetation/foliage around pond**

Cutting of vines and sumac around man-made pond. Per property owner, done every 5 or 6 years. Per Mark Stinson, proper procedure would be to file an RDA, because the work is within the buffer zone of the water. Grace will send letter notifying owner that they should file an RDA next time. She will inform the complainant of this as well.

- **Audubon/Pollinator Trust – Voided RDA from February 2020**

Need to resubmit RDA with a signed agreement and plan with Audubon. Agreement between Sue and Audubon was never completed. Grace will notify Sue to resubmit RDA.

- **2142 Shelburne Falls Rd – Received request for Certification of Compliance – site review needed**

At site visit didn't look like work was completed according to agreement. Steep bank behind house not filled in. Need more planting. Will set up another site visit with the contractor and have a vote next meeting.

- **National Grid Utility Maintenance from December 2019 restarting in April 2021**

Received courtesy letter from them. Regarding ongoing South River State Forest project (permitted).

- **Solar Farm Updates**

No change from last minutes. Have not turned off generators. Tighe and Bond will be doing inspection soon. Negotiating about screening vegetation to hide panels. Erosion control has worked well.

- **RDA – Rogers/Rice – Lot on S. Shirkshire Rd Received, site review completed; hearing on July 13**

Has to resubmit plans, move house away from intermittent stream.

Public Hearings and Meetings

- **7:10 NOI – Vertex Tower Assets – cell tower construction, 1384 S. Deerfield Rd – Continuation**

Hearing opened 7:13

Called to request continuation. They have just responded to Mark's concerns and are waiting for his response.

Graces moves for continuation at next meeting, July 13, Bob A. seconds. Passes 4-0-0.

Hearing closed 7:20

- **7:40 NOI – Eversource – Replacement Structures line 312 – Continuation (calling in remotely)**

Matt Kelly and David Askew attending via phone

Hearing opened: 7:43

Grace sent special conditions, they sent back with comments/wording changes.

Still in coordination with Natural Heritage, working towards filing checklist for entire project.

They did provide determination letter that there were no restrictions, but noted no soil disturbance until process complete.

Construction should be subject to Natural Heritage oversight, and should keep ConCom in the loop as well when construction started.

Grace moves to accept changes Eversource recommended to special conditions. Bob A. seconds. Passes 4-0-0.

Can approve order of conditions with the special conditions. Not subject to MA stormwater standards and no municipal wetland bylaws. Graces moves to accept order of conditions with special conditions, Bruton seconds. Passes 4-0-0.

Grace will distribute.

Hearing closed: 7:53

- **8:00 RDA – Scudder – 124 Matthews Rd – Septic system replacement – Continuation**

Hearing opened 8:04

Still doesn't have final design on septic, requested to have continued.

Grace moves to continue at next meeting, Bob N. seconds. Passes 4-0-0.

Hearing closed 8:05

Motion to adjourn by Grace, seconded by Bob N., approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned 8:06.

Next Regular Meeting July 13, 2021, 7:00 Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Rd