

Conservation Commission Minutes
November 15, 2022, 6 p.m.
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road

Present for the Commission: Bruton Strange, Chair; Bob Armstrong, Grace Larson, Bob Nowak, Tony Somers, Brittany Nickerson

Others Present: Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Conservation Commission

Grace convened the meeting at 6:04 p. m.

On a motion from Grace to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2022, Bob Armstrong seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Some conversation took place as to the status of members, as we are in a transitional state. Bob Armstrong will be stepping down, and Bob Nowak is moving to become an associate member, as long as the three new members have been sworn in. As of this meeting, both Bob A. and Bob N. may still vote.

Financial Matters:

- *Invoices: MACC*

Grace paid this invoice for copies of the “Peach Books” On a motion from Bruton to reimburse Grace for the peach books, Bob Armstrong seconded, all said aye, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

- *As Received*

A check in the amount of \$77.58 was received from Bob van Gelder for his legal advertising fees in regard to drilling a new well on his property. There are restrictions as he’s in the buffer zone. On a motion from Grace to process the payment, Bruton seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. The RDA will be on the next agenda.

Housing/Building Permits/site Visits

- 281 Old Cricket Hill Rd

The owner is building a shed. According to MassMapper no resources are involved, so the Commission has signed off on it.

A note on housing permits: The FCCIP (Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program) through FRCOG Building Commissioner, Jim Hawkins, alerts Conservation Commissions in the County when there may be something of concern. An email from FRCOG shows all pending permits. Must make sure that there is a map of the project and where it takes place - something that can be measured off of - say an existing building, street, etc. Allows the Commission to know where the proposed building or other project is going to be. We go to MassMaps as the Town’s GIS maps don’t give the detail that MassMapper gives. The problem with vacant lots is that all are ‘0’ whatever road: If you don’t have the lot number, it’s difficult to locate the correct address.

Forest Cutting Plans

321 East Church St – Signed off - once commission member have no questions, it will be filed.

467 Boyden Rd – Signed off - see above.

Mail/Announcements

- Deerfield Watershed Maps (Draft)

There was a webinar put out by FEMA - tracking the watershed from VT through Franklin and Hampshire Counties. FEMA may be changing the floodplain, possibly by changing the heights of water from the banks. At this time, it's a draft so not for publication.

Bruton reminded members that there are new regulations that impact property owners in the floodplain. Should be on the town website.

Miscellaneous Matters

- Welcome New Commissioners - Brittany and Tony

- RDA – 476 Bardswell Ferry Rd – well drilling – Nov 22, Bob van Gelder

As it might be advisable to have a site visit, one has been scheduled for Monday, November 21st at 1 p.m. Tony, Brittany, Bruton and Grace will meet at the corner of Bardwells Ferry & Reeds Bridge Roads.

Hearings

- No Hearings Scheduled

Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov 22, 2022, 6 p.m. at Town Hall

At 6:40 p.m. on a motion from Grace to adjourn, Bob Armstrong seconded all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.