

Conway Conservation Commission Minutes
6:00 p.m., September 26, 2023
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road

Present for the Conservation Commission: Grace Larson, Chair; Louise Beckett, Mary Key Costello, Brittany Nickerson, Tony Somers

Others Present: Jack McEleny; Edward Stuart; Janice Warner, Julie Sweet, Jim Bosman, Harry Bovio; Paul Jenkins; Lynne Hanley; Liz and Greg Smith, Ron Sweet, Paultette Levchuk, Janet Chayes

Grace convened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

On a motion from Grace to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Financial

A check came in for \$76.51 from Jack McEleny to pay for the legal notice in the *Greenfield Recorder*. On a motion from Grace to approve acceptance of the check and processing, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Building Permits/Site Visits

- Building Permit/site visit – 145 Hamilton Dr. – 20' x 36' shed construction – signed off
There didn't seem to be any other place to put the structure. The owner is putting solar on the roof.
- Site Visit – 259 Thompson Road – RDA
- Site Visit – South River Meadow – Parks & Recreation - RDA

Forest Cutting Plans

None

Notices

None

Updates

- South River Fallen Trees Emergency Certification
Natural Heritage has given permission to remove the trees.

Hearings

- 6:10 p.m. – *Enforcement Order Edward Stuart – Continued*

The Commission has received a delineation from Ward Smith, which seems complete. We will approve the restitution plan Ward sent out. Part of it involves moving the structure because it's within the 100' buffer zone. Where the trees were cut down needs to be re-planted. On a motion from Grace to accept the plan from Ward Smith, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. The main concern of the ConCom was the deforestation of land within the 100' buffer.

On a motion from Grace to switch the pickleball hearing with Thompson Road, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

• *6:20 p.m. – RDA – 259 Thompson Road – New Construction*

Site visit. Jack is building new construction on the footprint of a former dwelling. He has gotten a delineation from Ward Smith and so far is avoiding all the wetlands, so there is no issue at this time. On a motion from Grace to make a determination to approve the RDA with a negative 2 – The work described in the request is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge or alter that area. Therefore, said work does not require the filling of a Notice of Intent – Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. The RDA was then signed by the Commission.

• *6:30 p.m. – RDA – Parks & Rec - Pickleball Court*

Jan called the meeting of Parks & Rec to order at 6:16 p.m. They are proposing 4 pickleball courts on the South River Meadow along with a redesigned driveway for the Highway Department. As the driveway currently exists, visibility to Shelburne Falls Road is insufficient, and more steep at the entrance than is good. They are asking for a pickleball court on this site because they are currently using the basketball court on the ballfield and are sometimes displacing others. They picked the South River Meadow because it would be far enough away from the river. Once funding is approved, a wetlands delineation will be made. Ward Smith will get back to Jan on this. Emily Stockman, Senior Scientist, Stockman Associates, has also worked with the property and her fee would be \$1,400/day. She will look at the isolated wetlands located on the site and note if any plans would have a negative impact on the wetland or natural habitat. At the next meeting of Parks & Rec on October 3, monetary issues will be discussed. For the Conservation Commission, it was stated that today is not to determine anything other than if the project fits within the specifics of the wetlands protection act. On a motion from Grace to continue the hearing discussion to October 10, or at a later date, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Other Unannounced Business

None

At 7:05 p.m. On a motion from Grace to adjourn, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, General Purpose Room. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.