

Conway Conservation Commission Minutes
January 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, General Purpose Room

Present for the Conservation Commission: Louise Beckett, Mary Kay Costello, Brittany Nickerson, Tony Somers (Acting Chair)

Others Present:

Tony convened the meeting at 6:007 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Tony to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2023, Mary Kay seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. It was noted that there were no meetings on 12/26/2023 or 1/9/2024.

Financial

On a motion from Tony to approve the Con Com Budget for 2024-2025, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Building Permits/Site Visits

• 2 Site visits – 12/20, 1/15 - 67 North Poland Rd – flood damage to hillside – Natural Heritage involved.

Tony took many photos of the hillside where it's degrading. 4-5 full-grown trees have washed into the river approximately 20' from the homeowners' driveway, on a very steep grade. They have no ability to take on the expense of resolving the issue. Bill Burnett owns the bank up to approximately 10' of the drive. NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) has a potential program option that will pay 75% but the Town has to pay the other 25%. Tony suggested to Bill and the Ricardis that they check with NRCS and with Natural Heritage about what they can do to resolve the issue.

• Site Visit – 12/19 - Shelburne Falls Rd/ Emerson Hollow Rd – Flooding; E. Cert

• 4 site visits – 12/18, 12/21,12/27, 1/04 - Natural Roots – flooding – E.Cert pending.

Tony went on the site visit when NRCS, who is potentially providing funding and design support, was there. NRCS wants to be sure the design will hold for a considerable period of time because of public funding. Nothing has been heard back as of this mid-week. E-Cert not yet issued as we haven't seen the design. Work shouldn't be tied to the July storms, as erosion happened in December and was exacerbated in January. On January 18 the town called an emergency meeting to issue an emergency declaration.

- **Site visit -1/15 - 661 Graves Rd, RDA pending – septic system replacement**

Tony went on that site visit and doesn't see a problem: not an expansion and both the septic and the leach fields will be closer to the building, thus located further from the intermittent channel . The septic designer will attend the February 13th meeting of the Conservation Commission.

- **Building Permit – 259 Thompson Road – Building Plans**

If we could see a plan as to where the house is going to be, we likely wouldn't need to do another site visit regarding the driveway. On a motion from Tony to approve the plans for 259 Thompson Road, Mary Kay seconded, all said aye, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Forest Cutting Plans

None

Updates

None

Hearings

None Scheduled

Other Business

- **Ratify E. Cert for Town of Conway – Shelburne Falls/Emerson Hollow Flooding**

On a motion from Tony to ratify the Emergency Certification, Mary Kay seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

- **Ratify Updated Enforcement Order: E. Stuart, Old Fields Hill Road** - It was felt that all the Commission's expectations of the order were not clear, so the ratification was tabled to February 13th. Tony will make a bulleted list to clarify the Commission's expectations.

- **Sign off – OOC Extension – 69 Main St.** - On a motion from Tony to sign off on the OOC Extension for 69 Main Street, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

- **Ratify E Cert or Discuss Natural Roots Flooding issues**

Discussion (above)

- **Discuss 67 North Poland Rd – erosion issues**

Discussion (above)

- **RDA 661 Graves Rd – Hearing to be held 2/13/2024**

To go on the February agenda.

Next scheduled meeting: February 13, 2024, 6 p.m. at Town Hall, General Purpose Room. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.