

Conway Conservation Commission Minutes
May 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road

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

Others Present: Gerry LeBlanc, Jiyanna Vegedes, Devlin Selman

6:07 p.m. Grace convened the meeting.

On a motion from Grace to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Financial

- Received *Recorder* Invoice re: E. Stuart – legal ad - \$94.41
- On a motion from Grace to process the payment of the invoice for Edward Stuart’s legal ad in the amount of \$94.41, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Building Permits/Site Visits/Inquiries

- Site Visit – Old Fields Hill Road, lot 416-012
- Inquiry – 1118 So. Deerfield Road – damaged culvert
Waiting for an RDA
- Inquiry/Site Visit (2x) – Shelburne Falls Road near Emerson Hollow Road – road collapse
Emergency order to be finalized tonight. All signed the form.
- Inquiry/Site Visit – 1230 Main Poland Road – road, flood damage, environment issues
Philip Bowden wants the road closed, which is not possible.
- Inquiry/Site Visit – 51 Baptist Hill Road – swale needed
Water issues
- Site Visit – Reeds Bridge/Culvert issues
Grace spoke with Wendy about it. It looked like it had been cleared.
- Inquiry/Site Visit – Pleasant Street, Lot 104-071-01, Lot for Sale
Request from a resident asking about the property in regard to water issues. She can check with an environmental scientist.

Forest Cutting Plans

None

Updates

- Shelburne Falls/Emerson Hollow Roads – Road Collapse

Hearings

- 6:10 p.m. - Continued – Enforcement Order– Old Fields Hill Road, Lot 416-012
On a motion from Grace to move to close out the enforcement order, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.
- 6:15 p.m. - Continued – NOI – Old Fields Hill Road, Lot 416-012
Shed or cabin - the plan says it's a cabin so he'd need to do septic and get permit(s) from the building inspector. The meeting was opened, and then closed as Ward Smith couldn't attend. On a motion by Grace to open the meeting and then close it, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor..

Other Business

- Discussion – Nexamp and Abutters – erosion issues
Try to find solutions where we have jurisdiction and where it is not within ConCom's purview, try to direct the abutters to the proper party. Identify where water was flowing over the silt fence? How is the silt fence holding up? It's not designed to be permanent, and vegetation starts to take over so it's not needed. Gerry LeBlanc asked if the ConCom would want to come and walk his property, which abuts the Nexamp facility. He told the commission that there are habitat issues, as the leaf-cover is being washed away. Devlin says she has water issues in her basement. The Newman/Nexamp site is shedding water onto her property. She feels that this is the result of 30 acres having been clear-cut. Some of this was mandated by the fire department for emergency access. Water goes over the culverts, which can't handle the volume. Gerry admitted that the video he had sent was taken last year during the heavy rain. He also admitted that he had no flooding in his house nor in Devlin's house, nor was his sump pump overwhelmed by the rain, nor had he any overflow from Nexamp since. He also indicated that there had been no overflow of sediment, debris into the Keyes swamp across the street. Upon given a diagram of the site and his abutting property, he indicated with a red pen approximately where the overflow came from the Nexamp site and the direction of the water overflow.

Grace remarked that of the area we have been covering, silt has been removed, but that was damaging vegetation. Grace has also been following up over the past year with many site visits between July and August of last year. We need to check with Nexamp to see if they are doing maintenance after the severe storm events that have occurred. Plantings that were promised seem not to have been made.

- Further discussion of site visits/inquiries

Adjourn

At 7:00 on a motion from Grace to adjourn, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on May 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.