

Conway Conservation Commission Minutes
August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road

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

Others Present: Janet Chayes, Wendy Stayman, Matt McKenna, Mike Abel, Lincoln Fish, Bay State Forestry; Ed Stuart

At 6:03 p.m. Grace convened the meeting.

On a motion from Grace to approve the minutes of June 25, 2024 and July 9, 2024, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Financial

- Check \$84.97 (E. Stuart) payment for Legal Ad. On a motion from Grace to approve and process the check, Mary Kay seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Building Permits/Site Visits/Inquiries

- Site Visit 236 and 268 Shelburne Falls Road – Invasive Plants
- Site Visit 101 River Street – collapsing embankment
- Building Permit 52 Main Street – Deck Construction – waiting for approval
- Inquiry – South River Meadow Use for Parking for FOH

Forest Cutting Plans

None

Notifications

- Phragmites in old beaver pond near Audubon Conway Hills, So. Deerfield Road
- E. Cert – Emerson Hollow/Shelburne Falls Roads – Culvert Replacement – needs sign off. Grace passed the E. Cert around and all signed.
- E. Cert – DOT – Drainage Replacement/Embankment Repair – Rte. 116/101 River Street – needs sign off. Grace passed the E. Cert around and all signed.

Hearings

- 6:10 RDA Fields Hill Road, lot 416-012 – Add gravel to existing road

Grace asked Ed what he has done thus far. He said he has done nothing. He asserts the road is discontinued. Grace replied that when discontinued the road becomes a shared road. The ConCom cannot comment on the viability of Ed's proposal. The right of way does not support anything past 331, which is where the public road ends, so Ed would have to get written

permission from the owners up to 381. It was suggested that Ed's attorney draw something up and have it signed. Ed said the building inspector told him he would need a variance, which he would get for the width of the property. Also a variance for the width of the right of way. Can't make a decision without o.k. from all the property owners, and it should be done by certified mail. Ed said it might take some time to get the permissions and asked if he might be continued for four weeks. On a motion from Grace to continue this hearing to the September 8 agenda, Brittany seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

- 6:20 (7 RDA's) Invasive Plant Removal:

- 67 Elm Street
- 167 Elm Street
- 52 Main Street
- 70 Main Street
- 174 Shelburne Falls Road
- 236 Shelburne Falls Road
- 268 Shelburne Falls Road

ConCom needs to have Natural Heritage's opinion on this. Lincoln Fish had prepared a habitat management plan back in 2019/20 but the NOI plan was rejected by the ConCom as it would have put a lien on each of the properties. Two separate RDAs were filed instead. Asked MESA about approval which was still in effect at that time. Is it still under approval? Submitting an updated plan will refresh their minds. Lincoln had done a revision on the NOI that had been sent out. Waiting to hear from Misty-Anne of Mass Wildlife. Anything that involves the river involves Natural Heritage. Lincoln said that they don't want to spray when bees are roaming among the flowers. We will wait until next meeting and we should have an answer from Natural Heritage by then. On a motion from Grace to continue this hearing until the next meeting on August 27, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. Janet was in agreement. Approval takes about 10 days.

Other Unannounced Business

None

At 6:55 p.m. on a motion from Grace to adjourn, Tony seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.