

Leverett Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 7, 2016 7:15pm

Leverett Town Hall - First Floor Meeting Room
9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Commission Chair, Isaiah Robison.

Commissioners Present: Laurie Brown, Chris Nelson, David Powicki, Isaiah Robison, Ralph Tiner, Andrew Young

- Reviewed and approved October 10, 2016 minutes. Unanimously approved (motion made by David Powicki, seconded by Isaiah Robison).
- 7:20 p.m. Public Hearing for 83 N Leverett Rd (Grass Roots Landscaping for Diane Gorenstein)
 - *As contractors for the project, Isaiah Robison and Andrew Young recused themselves from the discussion. David Powicki opened the hearing as Acting Chair.*
 - The applicant proposes to install a gravel path, patio, retaining wall, and a grassy area in the riverfront. A site visit was conducted on 11/5. The site is located in NHESP Estimated Priority Habitat.
 - Since the project has not received a file number from the DEP or comments from NHESP, the Commission decided to continue the hearing until December.
- 7:27 p.m. Administrative Matters
 - Gordon King bridge has been repaired.
 - Actual cost was \$565.15 (\$515.15 for materials and \$50 for transfer station fee). Rocky finished brush-hogging the property, and has invoiced us for \$500.00. These costs will be paid out of the WMECO Mitigation Fund.
 - The Commission voted unanimously in favor of changing the name of the "Gordon King Blueberry Gift Fund" to the "Gordon King *Memorial* Blueberry Gift Fund." The name change must also be voted in by the Selectboard to become effective. *[As of 11/29, name has been changed.]*
 - The Gordon King *Life Estate* is named inaccurately, as the property belongs to the Town and Gordon King is now deceased. Agent will look into modifying the name of the property.
 - Community Preservation Act Grants
 - Agent is working on proposals for the Trails Committee: trails infrastructure and Gordon King property.
 - Since the Bill Rivers Bridge project is now complete, its account from the CPA grant will be closed out. *[Update: railings need to be completed]*
 - Walkability Trail

- Les & Terry Allen are applying for a separate grant to install a senior walking path using parts of the Bill Rivers trail.
 - The Conservation Commission lends its support to the project, and identifies no resource issues.
 - Overview of MACC Fall Conference
 - Emphasized the importance of working with foresters in order to conserve land as forest.
 - It was recommended that a Commission member be appointed to review Forest Cutting Plans so that comments can be made within the 10-day review period. Andrew Young volunteered.
 - A presentation on conducting timber harvest on conservation land in Athol was particularly insightful.
- 7:38 p.m. Old Business
 - FRCOG Permits
 - 5 Two Mile Rd (Valley Home Improvement for John Hunter) - No resource issues
 - Update from 17 Richardson Rd
 - Work has been done without recording the Order of Conditions at the Registry. Other projects have been identified that have been completed without recording.
 - The agent will propose a protocol for requiring a recording fee with Notice of Intent submission. The agent will record the Order on behalf of the applicant.
- 7:45 p.m. New Business (Issues around town)
 - Request for Certificate of Compliance for 29 N Leverett Rd (Barry Oberpriller for Lynn Hall)
 - Site visit was conducted on 11/5. Work was completed in compliance with conditions of the Order. Isaiah Robison made a motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance. Seconded by Andrew Young, vote unanimous.
 - Forestry Stream Crossing at 92 Amherst Rd - Eric Donnelly for Dick Hankinson
 - The DCR requires permission from the Commission for a stream crossing on town land in order to approve a Forest Cutting Plan.
 - Isaiah Robison made a motion to grant permission for the stream crossing *under the conditions* that DCR Best Management Practices be followed, and that the Commission shall be notified 48 hours before work commences. Seconded by Ralph Tiner; vote unanimous.
 - 118 Long Plain Rd
 - An inquiry was made about installing a well on the property.
- 7:49 p.m. Other New Business not considered as of the date of this notice
 - Verizon cell tower RDA (Long Plain Rd) is expected for next meeting.

- Agent will be out on vacation from 11/17 - 11/25. This will be posted to the website and noted on voicemail.
 - Isaiah Robison discussed with Chuck Dauchy (Board of Health) about protocol between BoH and the ConCom. The BoH will refer applicants with potential wetland issues to the agent, and will *not* recommend WPA filing. The ConCom will provide Determinations of Applicability for relevant projects to the BoH.
 - Brooke Thomas would like a Commission member or agent to walk the Friendship Trail. *[Update: Laurie Brown joined Brooke on 11/20.]*
-
- Next Meeting Date(s): December 5, 7:15 p.m. *[Later modified to December 12]*
 - Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. (motion made by Chris Nelson, seconded by Isaiah Robison).