

Leverett Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 29, 7:15pm

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Commission Chair, Isaiah Robison.

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

Public Attendees: Bill Sieruta and Jeffrey Gere (RDA 92 Juggler Meadow Rd); Barry Oberpriller, Cheri Oberpriller, and Lynn Hall (NOI 29 N. Leverett Rd); David Sieruta (22 Depot Rd), Mark Stinson (MassDEP), Miho Connolly (Commission Agent)

- Reviewed and approved August 1, 2016 minutes. Unanimously approved (motion made by Ralph Tiner, seconded by Isaiah Robison)
- 7:22 p.m. Public Meeting for RDA: 92 Juggler Meadow Rd (Bill Sieruta for Gere Estate)
 - RDA was filed for replacement of a septic system on a property that contains wetlands.
 - Commission site visit was conducted on 8/20/16. It was determined that the work proposed does not fall within 100' of a wetland.
 - The Commission voted to issue a Negative 4 determination: the work described is not in an area protected under the Act. Motion made by Ralph Tiner, seconded by Chris Nelson.
- 7:25 p.m. Public Hearing for NOI: 29 N. Leverett Rd (Barry Oberpriller for Lynn Hall)
 - Project is for repair of a failing dam. Barry wishes to take advantage of the current drought to conduct repairs before destructive autumn rains.
 - With input from Mark Stinson (DEP), the Commission determined that insufficient information was provided in the NOI. Barry must provide more technical details about the construction of the dam, note that he is filing as a limited project, and submit the required filing fee.
 - Isaiah Robison made a motion to continue the hearing until September 12, 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Ralph Tiner, vote unanimous.
- 8:20 p.m. Amended Enforcement Order for Culvert Replacement at N. Leverett Rd
 - Violation site was visited by agent, Andrew Young, Chris Nelson, and Mark Stinson on 8/15. Mark advised that a restoration plan be required instead of a NOI for a new replacement.

- The Commission discussed the stipulations for a restoration plan, including removal of fill from BVW and erosion controls.
- The Commission decided to require the above restoration actions under the Enforcement Order, and not to require the submission of a restoration plan. The work is to be completed by September 16.
- Motion made by Isaiah Robison to approve the amended Order. Seconded by Andrew Young; vote unanimous.
- Mark suggests arranging a meeting with the Highway Department to walk a number of stream crossings and discuss how to repair or replace them under the WPA.
- The EO will be brought to the attention of the Selectboard, due to the repeated absence of the Highway Department for meetings with Mark Stinson and the Commission.
- 8:40 p.m. Administrative Matters
 - Cave Hill property monitoring still needs to be conducted.
 - Rocky has agreed to construct a new walkway for the Gordon King covered bridge. He will make up a sketch and come back with a price quote.
 - Discussion for obtaining a CPA account:
 - The Commission would like to have a certain amount of CPA funds readily available for land acquisition.
 - The Commission will make a proposal to the CPA for an account that would always contain \$50,000 for the Commission to use at will for purchase of land. This account would be refilled to \$50,000 at the beginning of every fiscal year. Larger purchases requiring more than \$50,000 will go through the usual process of going to Town Meeting.
 - Laurie Brown will present this proposal to the CPA at their next meeting in late November/early December.
 - Sunderland site visit procedures
 - Agent would like to follow the Sunderland ConCom's procedure of requesting a site visit prior to any filing. The potential applicant will contact the agent before submitting paperwork to describe the process and potentially set up a site visit.
 - The Commission expressed approval of this new procedure. The agent will post this new procedure to the website.
- 9:08 p.m. Old Business
 - Certificate of Compliance for 62 Depot Rd (DEP# 200-117) has been recorded.
- 9:09 p.m. New Business (Issues around town)
 - Log removal and logging at 29 Amherst Rd (Dick Hankinson)
 - Dick wants to remove logs felled by the utility company onto his property bordering the ROW. This will require a stream crossing on the town-owned MacIntyre Conservation Area.

- Commission visited the site on 8/20
 - After consulting with Mark Stinson, Dick was advised to file a RDA describing the stream crossing and log removal.
 - Dick is also interested in logging his trees in the winter using the same route. This will be covered under a Forest Cutting Plan.
 - Construction of Verizon cell tower off Long Plain Rd (Cowls property)
 - Access road for tower passes through the buffer zone of a wetland and near a vernal pool.
 - Agent and Carl conducted a site visit on 8/20.
 - Applicant is planning to file in time for the October 3rd meeting.
- 9:16 p.m. Other New Business not considered as of the date of this notice
 - Drought Watch is in effect for Connecticut River Valley, up from Advisory
 - Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 8/30 8:00p.m. for solar panel installation at 114 Dudleyville Rd
 - There are wetlands on the property, but the project is planned outside of the buffer zone. Isaiah did not identify any resource issues when signing off on the building permit.
- Next Meeting Date(s):
 - Special Meeting: Monday, September 12, 7:15 p.m.
 - Regular Meeting: Monday, October 3, 7:15 p.m.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m. (motion made by Isaiah Robison, seconded by Laurie Brown).