

Conservation Commission

Minutes (final, approved April 11th, 2022)

March 7, 2022

Present: David P., Joan D., Isaiah R., Jono N., Gail B. for the Commission. Also present: Gregory Murphy, Brian Pearson, Seth H., Mitch M.

Mitch Mulholland was present to discuss an RDA he submitted for a dead tree that needs to be cut down at his property at 35 Cider Mill Ln. The tree is 30' from the pond, 13' from his well and 30' from his house. He stated that if it falls it will damage the house or well. The commission asked some questions.

Motion: To provide a negative 3 determination and allow the tree to be removed. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Lisa will "sign" the WPA form 2 electronically and forward to DEP and Mitch.

Gregory Murphy recently purchased 83 North Leverett Rd. and had questions about how the remediation for the septic system should be completed. He has a WPA certificate of compliance but was looking for suggestions/clarification. The commission thanked him for his diligence and gave suggestions of plantings to stabilize and revegetate the soil.

Brian Pearson emailed the commission to discuss his business: Adventure East and access to the Town's trails and pond for educational group trips. He has about 20 guides and is located in Sunderland and is insured. He is interested in using the pond to teach people how to paddle. Some on the commission were concerned about liability but he has liability insurance and offered to provide a certificate of insurance. The commission stated that they would feel more comfortable if he provided a MOU for the town along with more details about what trails he would like to access as some are not public. He has worked in surrounding towns and will provide an MOU for Leverett as he has for Amherst. Any fee for service will be waived as the commission would like to see the trails used. He will provide a proposal for review at a subsequent meeting.

Zach Katz, 253 Shutesbury Rd. submitted an NOI for the removal of several trees on his property that abuts Roaring Brook. He has submitted his fee and application. He estimated that about 18 trees are tagged to be removed. The commission would like him to meet with them again to discuss how the work will be done and asked that he review section 1058 of the Rivers Protection Act. A site visit was scheduled for March 16 at 5:00 pm This NOI should be put on the April agenda for discussion.

Isaiah reported back about Adam's references. He appears to be a good fit for Leverett being described as thoughtful and reliable albeit a bit green on regulations. **Motion: To offer Adam Kohl the position of Conservation Commission Agent pending pay negotiations. Vote: 5-0 in favor.** Isaiah will offer him the position and discuss rate of pay. The commission felt that a starting point of \$23/hour was fair for his experience.

Isaiah announced at a previous meeting that he was leaving the commission and that the April meeting would be his last. He is that Chair and asked if who would like to step up as next Chair when he leaves. No one was immediately ready. To be addressed at the next meeting.

Gail would like to send Tessa a thank you gift from the commission. She suggested that Ralph donate a signed copy of his book and asked if each member would contribute \$25. She will then send one check to Tessa.

The commission has a couple of people interested in joining that they will schedule for the next meeting to "interview."

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm.