Monday, May 16th, 2022 - Leverett Conservation Commission meeting Final minutes

In Attendance:

Dave Powicki, Chair, Gail Berrigan, Voting member Jono Neiger, Voting member Joan Deely, Voting member Ralph Tiner, Voting member Seth Heminway, Voting member Julia Firl - Soon to be voting member Adam Kohl, Conservation Agent Jesse Springer - Applicant for 102 Shutesbury Rd Mitch Mulholland - Friends of Lev. Pond representative Tom Hankinson - Friends of Lev. Pond representative Terry Allen - abutter to 102 Shutesbury Rd Gordon Green - to discuss 38 Depot Rd. Beth Willson - Representative of the applicant for DEP# 200-0197

Meeting started: David starts the meeting at 7:06pm

Minutes:

Seth makes a motion to approve the April 11th meeting minutes, Gail seconds, all in favor.

1) RDA for 102 Shutesbury Rd for replacement of existing porch w drainage footing

Jesse describes the project which includes the replacement of a collapsing porch and the addition of a footing drain which is anticipated to have only an intermittent trickle at most for flow. All work will take place in preexisting lawn or landscaped areas. Ralph makes a motion to issue a Form 2 with a negative 3 determination, Gail seconds. All in favor. Conditions include appropriate erosion control measures and prior to work commencement the Agent will be contacted to inspect the erosion control.

2) RCOC @ 50 Montague Rd for replacement of a garage

Dave makes a motion to Issue a Complete Certificate of Compliance with conditions that the silt fence should be removed, and the Agent will inspect erosion control after removal. Joan seconds, all in favor.

3) Gordon Green requests to speak about 38 Depot Rd.

Gordon is looking to buy property to conserve. The property 38 Depot Rd is for sale and appears limited for building but ripe for conservation. Gordon is attending the meeting in order to get the commission's professional expertise on the property. Gordon presents pictures and descriptions of the property and access is discussed. Commission suggests perhaps partnering with Kestrel Trust or discussing it with Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. Julia may be able to help connect Gordon with land buyers at USFWS. Franklin Land Trust was also brought up as a possible partner. Community Preservation Act funds may also be available.

4) Leverett Pond vegetation management

Ralph was concerned that certain areas of the pond are not being treated to the extent that they need to, saying we should be "attacking the areas of highest concentration of Eurasian millefoil". Mitch is saying those areas of highest concentration will be treated. Mitch says the FLP will continue to do surveys, including training volunteers for the creation of a pond map. Jono suggests hiring a professional consulting firm to do the surveys. Mitch mentions that Mickey Marcus of SWCA suggested Solitude Lake Management to him in the past. Solitude Lake Management does surveys both before and after treatment. Gail and Jono mention the need for accurate and consistent surveys to be able to gauge progress. Joan suggests using the SWCA survey as a template. Ralph suggests coming up with a standard method which any firm can use. Tom suggests Con Com pays for SWCA to do the surveys. Is the project eligible for CPA money, asks David? A concern for conflict of interest is raised by the commission if the company who is doing the treatment is also doing the surveying.

5) Potential violation at 7 Cushman Rd DEP# 200-0197

Beth describes the history of the work done on the driveway and suggests ways to fix the water drainage issues that have arisen post-construction. Certain work done to repair the driveway was improvised by the contractors at the request of the landowner and was not permitted in the OCC, this included shallow trenching of the driveway sides. The commission requests a summary of the impacts to resource areas and plan of correction be submitted to be reviewed at the June meeting. The commission would also like to perform a site visit prior to the meeting.

6) Potential violation at 138 N. Leverett Rd.

A message was sent from DEP to the commission alerting them of a possible violation at 138 North Leverett Rd. Adam drove by and witnessed a pile of fill sliding down a bank into an area that was potentially jurisdictional. The commission decides to issue an enforcement order, requesting the fill be removed. Next meeting is set for: June 6th

Motion to close the meeting: Joan makes a motion to adjourn, David seconds, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:43pm