

Monday, November 28th, 2022 - Leverett Conservation Commission meeting FINAL minutes

In Attendance:

Jono Neiger, Voting member

Gail Berrigan, Voting member

Joan Deely, Voting member

Ralph Tiner, Voting member

Seth Heminway, Voting member

Julia Firl, Voting member

Adam Kohl, Conservation Agent

Herbert E. Ross (aka Hank) - Realtor for 15 Chestnut Hill Rd

Meeting started: Adam starts meeting at 7:07pm

1) Selection of a new Chair

There was some discussion among the Commission of the possibility of co-Chairs. It is noted that there are benefits of having an experienced Chair working with a less experienced member of the Commission. Jono said he can take over the Chair position from Dec. 2022, to April 2023. In March the Commission will discuss the May Chair vacancy. Joan noted she is willing to be Co-Chair during Jono's Chair-ship. Ralph makes a motion to make Jono the Chair and Joan the Co-Chair, all in favor.

2) Items not anticipated within 48 hours

Hank Ross updated the Commission on the mitigation area at 15 Chestnut Hill Rd. The boundary has been memorialized with permanent markers (rebar, stones, and blue flagging). The plants required in the mitigation area have been planted according to landscape standards. Adam notes he allowed substituting *Aronia melanocarpa* for *Aronia arbutifolia* as New England Wetlands Plants had run out of *A. arbutifolia*. Hank mentions there was vegetation present in the mitigation area in 2017 and the area was never bare. Hank noted the area currently contains mostly native plant species but some non-native species. Joan mentioned that the *Ilex verticillata* that were planted are getting browsed by deer, and requests that they be caged. There was some talk about how mitigation areas are passed from new owners, how will the new owners know not to mow the area? Ralph suggested maintaining a list of mitigation areas that the public could view, putting it online; Adam will draft a spreadsheet and share with the Commission. Ralph noted that there is a property on Montague Rd that should be added to that

spreadsheet. Hank said he can add deer browse cages and will notify Adam when the work is completed.

3) November 7th meeting minutes approval

Joan makes a motion to approve the Nov. 7th minutes, Seth seconds, all in favor (except Jono who abstains as he wasn't at the meeting).

Seth asked a question about CR monitoring and annual requirement to monitor. Adam can start a spreadsheet of the various conservation properties. Seth also mentioned getting topics like budget, monitoring requirements, and regular check-ins added semi-regularly to the agenda. Adam is to send around a copy of the 2020 List of Conservation Properties. Ralph mentioned making an interactive map of ongoing and historic projects. Jono suggests having files and folders that are accessible to Commission members would be a great benefit. Adam suggested he may be able to accomplish this with Google Drive, but that the account is running out of space.

Seth suggested having coffee or getting together as a Commission for a walk as a meet-and-greet. A walk is planned on Sat. Dec. 17th at Rattlesnake Gutter Rd at 8:30am, meeting on the Montague Rd. side... rain or shine.

Adam noted he can send out a general request for site visit availability, and attempt to quantify the best regular time for site visits. This would increase fluidity of business so Adam doesn't have to regularly poll the Commission for best times.

Motion to close the meeting: Seth makes a motion to adjourn, Gail seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:57pm

Meeting minutes taken by Adam Kohl - Conservation Agent

Approved on Jan. 9th, 2023