

Monday February 6th, 2023 - Leverett Conservation Commission meeting DRAFT minutes

In Attendance:

Jono Neiger, Chair

Joan Deely, Vice-Chair

Gail Berrigan, Voting member

Seth Heminway, Voting member

Adam Kohl, Conservation Agent

Bridget Likely, Kestrel Land Trust

Justin Maynard, Conservation Agent applicant

Meeting started: Jono started the meeting at 7:11pm

Minutes:

Jan 9th: Jono makes a motion to approve minutes as submitted, seconded Gail. All in favor

1) RDA hearing for 292 Shutesbury Rd septic

Christopher Stoddard (Engineer) asked for the hearing to be continued via email prior to the meeting. The Commission has concerns and questions and may wish him to file an NOI rather than an RDA. Joan makes a motion to continue the hearing, Seth seconds. All in favor.

2) Draft CR approval for Heronemus Land

Adam had sent around the draft CR to the Commission ahead of the meeting. Passive recreation such as snowmobiling, hunting, trapping, and camping were discussed as potentially allowed activities. Seth asked whether the future use of herbicides and pesticides should be discussed. National Grid has been in contact with Kestrel Land Trust and discussed easement rights. Joan asked who will be responsible for the land and management of land, Bridget says Kestrel will be in charge of that. Gail asked what the provision might be for refusing activities down the line which cause damage to the trail systems, Bridget says that can be addressed when it happens but Kestrel and Con Com will have a right to decline activities that are not in line with the CR. Gail asked about the parking lot size, and says there may be questions about that from the public. Gail asked for an estimate on the parking lot size and parking capacity, Bridget will discuss it with her co-workers and compare comparable properties. Seth asked who

would be responsible for plowing the parking area and the Commission would like to see this information presented in the CR along with any other winter plowing maintenance that will be needed. Jono asked if the Commission should write a basic summary of the project and include it in the Town Newsletter. Seth and Joan are willing to write the summary. Bridget will recirculate the CPC application for Seth and Joan to reference. Bridget will share Kestrel's hunting policy with the Commission.

3) Native Plant Trust, seed collection report and request

A request was made by Native Plant Trust to renew their seed collecting permission on Leverett town-owned properties in the 2023 field season. Native Plant Trust is a reputable conservation organization with responsible techniques for sustainable harvesting of seed of common wild-occurring native plants. The plants will be propagated and sold to support restoration efforts and the Native Plant Trust organization. Seth made a motion to permit the request, Joan seconded, all in favor.

4) Interview with Conservation Agent candidate

Justin Maynard is interviewed for the position of Conservation Agent. Justin had previously worked for the federal government, but decided it wasn't the right fit for him. He's very interested in wetlands and wetland science. Justin enjoys working for a community, and he's passionate about the work. He has been in school for a few years and is looking for part-time work in the field of his interest.

Jono made a motion to move into executive session, as open meeting would have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. All in favor 4-0. The Commission moved into Executive Session at 8:46pm. The Commission left Executive Session at 9:02pm.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 6th at 7pm via Zoom

Motion to close the meeting: Jono made a motion to adjourn, Gail seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:05pm

Meeting minutes taken by Adam Kohl - Conservation Agent