

Leverett Conservation Commission

MINUTES: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 7:04

1. Attendance

Sam Black, Erin Jaque, Alexander Grigoriv, Ms. Emond Eggs signed on briefly
Commissioners: Joan Deely, Jono Neiger, Julia Firl, Seth Heminway

2. Review & Approval of Minutes

- 06 Nov 2023 Minutes – Seth made motion to approve, Joan 2nd, all in favor

3. Public Hearing/Public Meeting

- FONLS (Sam Black) – update w/ slideshow presentation; overview of project for heritage site and nature trail; aim for ADA compliance; wants advice for NOI to be submitted; survey and wetlands delineation now completed; list of 9 items to be described in the NOI (bog bridges, removal of invasive plants, etc.); Walker Corby preparing the trail design and is familiar w/ wetland issues;
 - 1) is this suitable for a Limited Project NOI? Erin: Yes. River front bike paths can be considered under the multi-use umbrella; recommends calling it a multi-use path, but avoid adding fill.
 - 2) is a critical area due to cold-water fishery,
 - 3) not exempt from stormwater management area regs; any net gain of impervious surface,
 - 4) is site subject to wetland or conservation restrictions? Not yet, but FONLS wants to add this after construction; no known conservation restriction on Town-owned portion;
- Building Dept sign off needed – 194 Montague Rd.; Joan could not find; will check again at a later date, otherwise it was likely removed from FRCOG site

4. Administrative Matters

- Meet w/ Alex Grigorov re: Conservation Agent application; previously worked for Marlborough in conservation, zoning, and site plan reviews; recently moved to Leverett area; was Senior Clerk to Conservation Agent; did lots of permitting and site visits; checking delineations; lots of more commercial, subdivisions, etc.; did some green space acquisition; MACC and MSBC Member; was at fall conference; LCC informed that Leverett is looking for 10 hours per week and recommended looking at Shutesbury too; Seth and Joan will arrange time for in-person interview at Leverett Town Hall
- Check in with Erin Jaque; why does Con Com use Gmail and not a Town email? Ideas: use Town website to share documents/packets for commissioners; okay to ask public to submit docs electronically, but allow hardcopies as needed; return to use of leverett.ma.us email address; compile list of all outstanding NOI; find recorded copy of Vote to Use Digital Signatures so Erin can use eDEP; NAEHP compliance for amphibian

protection; send Erin a template for Legal Ad; upload files to Town website to allow for easy access of documents for public review; Erin glad to help train new Agent even in unpaid mentor role;

- Check in with Mark Stinson – not present
- Comprehensive Plan discussion – someone from planning committee may want to talk w/ LCC in the future about specific points
- Kittredge Estate development plan – will be discussed at 12/13 planning board meeting, 7:30PM; a tour will be offered at a later date
- Transition to digital filing and signature process – see above
- eDEP credentials – Erin has them, but needs recorded document allowing digital signatures;

5. Other items not anticipated

- Certificate of Compliance request from NSTAR Electric dba Eversource – Erin will review CoC and try to do a site visit for spot checking;
- Beaver Pond Leveling device – Seth sent follow-up materials out to folks from October meeting; pond is even higher; LCC is waiting for a request for action to issue Order; DPW should submit the Emergency Cert request (can be letter or even just an email); Agent or Chairperson can sign, then it's ratified at the next LCC meeting; Erin recommends issuance of EC for slow drawdown (controlled breach) – must be done VERY SLOWLY over several days before winter sets in; this is not the time of year to install a pond leveler (too dangerous and cold); okay to issue a few EC's for mods until the spring when Beaver Solutions might become available; Seth will communicate recommendations with Matt for a controlled drawdown to ~ 2 feet below road surface; don't just take a backhoe and demolish entire dam; Joan will share on Leverett Connects what the plan is and when the drawdown will occur; Seth will get back to Eva Gibavic;
- 51 Camp Road -landscape plan review; LCC should require at least an RDA; see minor activity rules; if a permit was required, the bare minimum would be an RDA, otherwise there will be no power to enforce any sort of mitigation work; see Hopley file from across the pond where a landowner cut down trees; under state law, a deck is not allowed without a permit at its present location; could do recorded Enforcement Order; since it's a buffer zone only project, an RDA is sufficient (since Leverett does not have a wetlands bylaw); LCC agrees to request RDA and have landowners and contractor to attend public meeting; Julia will contact Robbs
- Library outdoor plans – Joan Godsey briefed Seth on idea for trail through wetlands
- Few updates on Heronemus Conservation Restriction; Seth thinks all changes are okay; no formal vote or action needed
- Dues for MACC will be \$311 for 2024. Who pays this? Joan will follow up w/ Margie

6. Schedule January meeting date – Monday 1/8 – use 2nd Zoom account since Historical Commission is also scheduled to meet at this time.

7. Adjourn

Meeting End Time: 9:03