

Town of Leverett Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: Oct 10, 2024

Attendance

Joan Deely (Vice Chair)
Seth Heminway, voting member
Julia Firl, voting member
David Powicki, voting member
Isabella Yeager (Conservation Agent)
Fletcher Korfhage-Poret
Jim Field

Meeting preliminaries

Meeting opens at 7:01pm. Attendance is taken.

Approval of minutes: 9/23/24

Joan Deely makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented by Julia Firl. David seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

1. Public inquiries: none

2. Continued from last meeting (09/23/24): 112 Shutesbury Road septic project

The board agrees that if the applicant's septic repair project is approved by the Board of Health, an updated NOI would need to be filed that reflects the most recent design details of the septic renovation. Isabella will inquire with the Board of Health as to the status of their approval and notify the applicant of the need for an updated NOI.

3. Old business

- a. Signing of Library RDA
- b. Signing of Friends of North Leverett Sawmill Order of Conditions

4. New business

- a. Report on site visit: Hannah Hartle property abutting Ruth McIntire Conservation Area
 - i. Julia and Seth describe their visit to Hannah Hartle's property, where they looked for property boundaries and inspected mountain bike ramps and trails that they were concerned were impeding on the Ruth McIntire Conservation Area. They confirm that property owner Hannah Hartle has agreed to have the ramps removed and re-establish leaf litter that has been eroded by mountain bike use; Julia stated that Hannah had followed up with an email to the effect that she has taken these steps. Hannah had also stated that three remaining structures of concern were to be taken down the next weekend (10/12-13).
- b. 124 Long Plain Road FRCOG Building Permit sign-off via Permiteyes confirmed by Isabella
- c. 17 Cider Mill Road Abbreviated NOI discussion with Jim Field

i. The board discusses whether the Abbreviated NOI is the appropriate application for Jim Field to file regarding his intent to do some weight-removal pruning on a red oak that has sustained beaver damage and take down two silver maples he describes as declining on his property within the buffer zone of the Leverett Pond shoreline at 17 Cider Mill Road. Joan asks Jim to describe the silver maple removal process. Jim says he has received an estimate from a Leverett tree service and that the process would involve cutting the trees from the top down and removing the wood from the site. David notes that no vote could have been taken on this application yet as it hasn't yet been filed with the DEP and issued a file number. Joan posits that the needed permitting might be accomplished with an RDA. David asks what equipment would be used, and Jim describes a Spider Lift - an 80' high machine used to cable and lower branches. Julia inquires if exemptions regarding residential safety, vista pruning might apply here. David suggests inquiries be made with Mark Stinson about exemptions and the possibility of an RDA, also mentioning firewood permits as a possible avenue. Isabella will follow up.

5. Other New Business not considered as of the date of this notice

a. Fletcher Korfhage-Poret: Open Order of Conditions blocking sale of family home

i. Fletcher describes the circumstances that led his parents to complete the NOI application that produced an Order of Conditions in 1991. Wetlands on their property at 82 Juggler Meadow Road had developed due to beaver activity. When the beaver dam was dismantled, their horse barn was flooded and a bridge washed out. The NOI was filed with the intent to repair this by installing a concrete culvert, but Fletcher's parents decided not to go ahead with this plan. The Order of Conditions remained open for work that never began. At the advice of Mark Stinson Fletcher submitted a Request for Certificate of Compliance to the Conservation Commission, to the effect that the Order of Conditions has lapsed and is no longer valid. The board agrees that they should issue a Certificate of Compliance to the effect that the Order of Conditions is invalid due to work never having been performed.

b. Discussion of Evans-Marlowe case

i. The board recaps what was discussed regarding the Evans Marlowe case at the Executive Session on 10/8/24.

c. Proposed site visit to see beaver pond flow device for Shutesbury Road at the 4-H Forest

i. Seth describes a site visit he plans to do to see a new beaver pond flow device acquired by Matt Boucher of DPW.

6. Administrative matters

a. Joan raises the possibility of hiring former conservation agents Adam and/or Miho for a day of training with Bella Yeager, the new Conservation Agent. The board agrees with this and agrees to allocate \$300 of its budget toward a training session. The board also discusses the need for a new desk chair for the Conservation office.

Joan makes a motion to adjourn. Seth seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Next meeting: 11/4/24.

Minutes submitted by: Isabella Yeager

Approved on: 11/4/24