

Leverett Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes: Monday, February 5, 2024

In Attendance

Jono Neiger, Chair
Joan Deely, Vice Chair
Julia Firl, voting member
Seth Heminway, voting member
Amy & Andy Robb, 51 Camp Rd
Daizha Baptiste, DEP
Don Robinson, FONLS
Miriam DeFant
Mark Stinson, DEP
David & Norma Evans, 101 Shutesbury Rd
Julie Marlowe, 101 Shutesbury Rd
Hannah Paessel, Leverett Library
Apple Ahearn
Don Ogden
Debbie Ames
Leslie Fisetto, Head of Friends of Library Group

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM

1. Approval of Minutes from December 2023 and January 2024 meetings. Seth made motion to Approve, Joan 2nd, all in favor.
2. Public Hearing on RDA for 51 Camp Road. LCC asked for remediation plan for after-the-fact permitting; RDA was submitted in January w/ proper public notice in Greenfield Reporter; plan is a little sparse, concern about steepness of slope, erosion control measures; need clarity on what kind of soil will be in basin, how outflow will be handled; Title 5 regs have some minimum setback from septic to prevent groundwater intrusions.
ConCom requested the following revisions to map(s): show 100' buffer; show location of septic tank; show location of deck on the plan; show topo contours to see relationship between basin and deck; show location of erosion control barriers. Julia will email list of requested changes to Amy Robb. Hearing continued until March 4th.
3. FONLS NOI – need to schedule site visit, publish notice, and schedule for March 4th. Julia will email Sam Black the info needed for newspaper ad.
4. Follow up on Evans/King easement - David Evans asked for update from Leverett town counsel, Donna MacNicol, and requested copy of her written report; no update or report

available at time of meeting; 2 No Parking signs have been requested by Public Works Dept; tentatively plan to revisit this issue at March 4th meeting when more information is available.

5. Hannah Paessel from the Leverett Library discussed re-envisioning parking lot, 2 wildflower gardens, wet meadow area, working w/ Conway School of Landscape Design (Mira Connors) as a student project; looking at light throughout the year, water run-off paths; want an accessible, interactive space. Library wants ADA accessibility (wide gravel paths), benches along the path, boardwalk over wetland, small stage for outdoor performances. First step is to determine if the wetlands near the library are under the jurisdiction of the WPA; Con Com requested that library submit a draft plan so we can advise if an RDA or NOI is needed before work can begin. Mark Stinson recommends RDA be submitted to determine if this is a regulated area based on definition and size of wetland. Joan asked if wetland scientist should delineate wetland first... but cost may be prohibitive. Ward Smith from Wendell could do rough assessment of wetland area for not that much money.
6. Question via email regarding LCC involvement in approving work on Trails. Bog bridge = planks over muddy spots; Mark Stinson says if muddy spot is within BVW the WPA applies and trail work must be permitted w/ NOI; boards are considered "fill"; municipal projects are exempt from filing fees; some exemptions for riverfront trails <10' wide; Mark will send some guidance docs on best practices for trails; FONLS invited to next trails meeting to hear BMPs from Mark Stinson.
7. Administrative Matters
 - Meet w/ Miriam DeFant re: admin help; former Chair of Shutesbury ConCom; was member for 3 years; former forensic psychologist; has good skillset in regulatory review and admin details; did a lot of administrative organizing; does not want to apply for open position. Shutesbury revamped website; posted RDAs & NOIs on website to make them available to the public (template newspaper ad directs folks to website to view applications). Leverett ConCom needs help transitioning to eDEP and digital submissions; okay to use GoogleDocs or DropBox; talk w/ Town Clerk about records retention policy; supposed to have DEP File No. to open public hearing; required to hold public hearing within 21 days of receipt; borrow Shutesbury's spreadsheet for tracking applications; Joan & Miriam will meet; Jono recommends MOU to have Miriam be an unpaid consultant for technical support for revamping website, eDEP operation, tracking projects, and solving email issues.
 - Mark introduced Daizha Baptiste – new assistant for the wetland program
 - Schedule date for NSTAR/Eversource Cert of Compliance inspections (3 sites) – Julia & Joan will connect offline;
 - MACC conference Sat 3/2

8. Other items not anticipated

- Interest from Robert Piotrowski and I live at 332 Long Plain Rd. – did not attend meeting
- Seth will represent LCC at Rattlesnake Gutter road: position is to maintain road as trail and for emergencies only – not through traffic;
- Cowles timber cutting plan on Number Six Road
- Annual Report due 3/15/24; Seth wants to add some info for the Trails activities; see last year's report for an example

Joan made motion to adjourn. Jono 2nd, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Minutes taken by Julia Firl.