

Leverett Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 15, 2024

Start Time: 7:00 PM

In Attendance:

Jono Neiger, Chair

Joan Deely, Vice Chair

Julia Firl, voting member (opened meeting but did not participate)

David Powicki, voting member

Seth Heminway, voting member

Samuel Black, FONLS

Jocelyn Demuth

Carol Heim

Susan Mareneck

Pat Fiero

Don Robinson

Ben Goldberg

Brian Edmond

1. Approval of Minutes from 2/5/24 and 3/4/24

Public Hearing / Public Meeting

2. Public hearing on NOI DEP# WE 200-0205, Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill.

Sam Black of FONLS described the project. ConCom members Seth and Dave clarified how and where bog bridges and rigid span bridging with cribbing should be used. Jono sought confirmation that Mark Stinson's comments had been addressed. Sam replied that they had been. Sam was asked to update the first and signature pages of the NOI to include both owners and to check with the Town Administrator about the proposed MOU agreement between FONLS and the town. ConCom members commended Sam on the project and his preparations. The hearing will be continued at the May 1 meeting. Since Sam will not be available, another FONLS member will attend.

3. Wetland contamination concern @ 102 Shutesbury Rd. Joan to contact FRCOG Mark Stinson about next steps.

4. Questions regarding new construction @ 20 N. Leverett Rd. Brian Edmond described the intended removal of a trailer home and replacing it with a foundation-built home of only slightly larger foot print and his concern for protecting the nearby stream. ConCom asked Mr. Edmond to prepare a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) as well as a site plan showing distances between the building envelop, the stream, backfill stockpile and intended stormwater best management practices (silt fence and straw wattle).

5. Request for ConCom support for beaver workshop. Leverett resident Ben Goldberg suggested that ConCom financially support a presentation by Patti Smith of Brattleboro, VT. ConCom agreed that this would be very timely and a great opportunity to reach out to residents about how to successfully co-exist with beavers. Mr. Goldberg was asked to bring a

written proposal from the speaker to the May 1 meeting. The estimated cost is \$500. Logistical discussion to continue at the May 1 meeting. Since the meeting, Seth confirmed with the Town Administrator and the Town Accountant that funding is available.

6. Preliminary discussion of BESS (battery energy storage systems) - tabled until we have more information

7. Valuation of lot at 0 Long Plain Road (request from assessor). Joan to reply that we do not do appraisals and that a professional wetlands delineation and appraisal would need to be done.

8. 160 Long Plain Rd Letter to property owner that was drafted by Joan will be re-circulated for review.

Administrative Matters

9. Melanie Klein, Umass Phd in Environmental Conservation expressed interest in both joining the Commission and possibly applying for the Conservation Agent position. Members encouraged Ms. Klein to take advantage of the training offered by MACC.

10. EverSource 5-year Plan and ROW work - tabled.

11. ConCom agreed to return to in person meetings beginning on June 3.

Minutes prepared by Seth Heminway

Adjourned at 8:39