

# Leverett Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes: Monday, May 6, 2024

Start: 7:03 PM

### In Attendance

Julia Firl, voting member

Seth Heminway, voting member

Joan Deely, voting member

David Powicki, voting member

Jono Neiger, voting member – joined late

Sam Black, FONLS

Pat Fiero, public – signed off early

Sid Poritz, FONLS

Eric Donnelly, public, interest in FONLS

Susan Mareneck, FONLS board member

Ben Goldberg, public (beaver presentation)

Melanie Klein

1. Review & Approval 15 Apr 2024 Minutes – hold off until next month; members did not have chance to review
2. Public Hearing/Public Meeting
  - Continuation of Public hearing on NOI DEP# WE 200-0205, Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill: FONLS sent requested docs to Joan and Margie to meet all filing requirements. Final copy of MOU/NOI dropped off in LCC mailbox. Town signed off and Joan signed on behalf of ConCom. Must be sent to DEP. Seth made motion to approve. Joan second. All in favor.
  - Update from Joan/FRCOG on 102 Shutesbury Rd: Joan spoke w/ Board of Health per Mark Stinson's recommendation. They are aware of the situation and will contact the owners again. David sent along docs from existing file on this address. Ward Smith did wetland delineation on this site previously. Septic was previously approved, but was not put in. Permits only valid for 3 years. May now be issues with junk vehicles polluting wetlands. Joan will get in touch with Jon Hillman from BOH and ask what ConCom's next step should be. Seth & Julia willing to visit with landowners but will wait for report from BOH before proceeding. David recusing himself since he is a direct neighbor.

- Preliminary discussion of BESS (battery energy storage systems): Wendell site is for energy storage; Shutesbury site(s) targeted for solar panels in forest. ConCom can provide letters of support (or non-support) for projects in surrounding towns. At last Wendell meeting, they approved a zoning bylaw to give town authority to approve BESS above a certain size. Joan will invite someone from Wendell to come to June meeting to explain.
- Revisit EverSource 5-year Plan and ROW work: Joan could not find electronic copies. No action/approvals needed, just notification. David interested to know if there is any major divergence(s) from previous years' plans. Eversource and RRs not subject to Leverett's herbicide ban. Impacts to resource areas ("taking") balanced with mitigation work in town or within region but will require standard WPA routing. Joan will ask Eversource to provide a digital copy and attend an upcoming meeting to talk the ConCom through the plan.
- Proposal for beaver workshop (Ben Goldberg): ConCom has funding available to support the workshop. \$130 per hour is fee charged by Professor. A 1 to 1.5 hour workshop + 1-2 hour field trip + travel time. (\$500-\$600 total cost). Offer free and open to the public, donations accepted to support future, similar workshops. Avoid sales pitch or "beaver deceivers" and focus more on beaver ecology and general mitigation strategies (e.g. pond levelers). Trying to schedule at library, Town Hall, other venue options. Working to nail down a firm date and time, either a Sat/Sun. Have ConCom member introduce program, Ben, and professors. Ben would prefer to book at library & 4H Forest for parking, accessibility, etc. Scout out locations for field trip, safe parking. Maybe Sarah Todd's property, or 4H Forest. Potential for bonus trip with canoes/kayaks to Wickett's Pond.

### 3. Administrative Matters

- Voice message from Dudleyville Rd project. Joan responded that we need more details.
- Joan responding to emails regarding "buildable lots". Need wetland delineation before ConCom can make any sort of assessment.
- Joan working on NOI for DPW for beaver deceiver. Almost ready to send out abutter notices.
- Schedule time to prep for live meetings (beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>). Joan will confirm w/ Margie. Not obligated to do hybrid. Joan & Julia will meet with Margie to make arrangements for 6/3 meeting.

4. Other items not anticipated
  - What are requirements for wetland delineators? (Rt. 63 x Juggler Meadow lot). Joan believes they must be certified wetland scientist.
5. Executive Session to prepare for mediation session regarding the access easement across 101 Shutesbury Road (Evans-Marlowe) to the Gordon King Life Estate property (Leverett Conservation Commission)

MINUTES FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Adjourn 8:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Julia Firl