

Town of Leverett Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: Mar 3, 2025

Attendance

Joan Deely, acting Chair; Seth Heminway, Julia Firl, David Powicki, voting members; Isabella Yeager, Conservation Agent; Claire Carlson, Tom Hankinson, Mitch Mulholland, Tanya Cushman, Julie Marlow, FLP; Sarah Manteiga, potential new board member

1. Meeting preliminaries

Meeting opens at 7:10pm. Attendance is recorded, but individual "D.C.," attending virtually, does not state their name for the record.

2. Public inquiries: none

3. New & old business

a. Conservation Agent's Report

- i. 112 Shutesbury Rd updates: Bella explains to the board that the Board of Health has sent a letter to the Stuberovskis dated February 21, 2025 ordering that the approved septic system be installed by the end of March 2025 or that the case shall be sent to housing court. There is no further action for the ConCom to take at this time.
- ii. Permit for Shutesbury Rd beaver pond flow control device: Neither Bella nor Mark Stinson has been able to locate an NOI permit for this project, which was discussed at the February meeting. Members of the board believe that an NOI was completed and will try to locate; possibly it was completed but never filed with DEP.

Bella has spoken with Sue Nagy of BOH to lay the groundwork for an emergency permit issuance following the anticipated site assessment by Beaver Solutions, LLC, and has been in touch with Mike Callahan to schedule assessment, which can take place after the pond is completely free of ice. Bella will monitor the site for these conditions.

Bella has also confirmed with Matt Boucher of Hwy Dept that a new culvert is being designed for the site, with installation tentatively scheduled for 2026. Mike Callahan has said it is better to install the FCD and then adjust the size if needed to accommodate the new culvert than to wait to install or put in a temporary device.

- b. FLP annual management proposal, DEP Permit No. 200-0196; MDEP Dredging Permit WW01-000167: Mitch Mulholland introduces the 2025 phase (Year 4 of 5) of the Leverett Pond invasive species management project, which features use of a hydrorake to remove aquatic invasives in shallow water, likely in June 2025; plant matter will be allowed to desiccate in the sun on the property of abutting landowners, who must then relocate this material to at least 100' from the resource area.

Mitch describes the RDA he has submitted for a hearing at the April ConCom meeting, having to do with removing cattails from the boat launch area of Leverett Pond.

Joan makes a motion to approve the FLP 2025 Invasives Management Plan as submitted. David seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Bella will double-check the expiration date of the FLP NOI permit 200-0196 so that an extension can be issued if necessary.

David recommends submitting digital copies of materials on a USB stick rather than on CDs in the future.

- c. Discussion: CR inventory/monitoring, refreshing boundary markings: Seth describes the need for an inventory of Conservation Restricted-properties in town, and to keep boundary markings up to date. The board agrees there should be standard operating procedures for monitoring CRs annually, ensuring management is happening, and updating/orienting boundary markings. David suggests Rattlesnake Gutter Trust may have organizational ideas for SOPs.

Seth makes a motion to spend up to \$500 on having new boundary markers made. Joan seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Seth will coordinate with Bella re: vendor and materials options for boundary markers.

4. Other business not considered as of the date of this notice

- a. Forest Cutting Plan: Kestrel owns property - are they aware of the plan?

5. Administrative matters

- a. Rich Thomas, potential new member: Rich not in attendance
- b. Sarah Manteiga, potential new member: the board speaks with Sarah and agrees it would like to pass her name on to the Selectboard for approval as a new member.
- c. Approval of minutes
 - i. 1/6/25 - Julia's changes: held till April meeting
 - ii. 2/3/25: Seth votes to approve the minutes as presented. David seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
- d. Budget breakdown: The board reviews the budget report that is available, which is from December 2024. Bella will ask Kelli to explain the allowed uses for the Revolving Fund and the "Trust" fund.
- e. Gmail storage upgrade: The ConCom gmail storage limit has been increased to 100GB for \$18, with membership renewing in 2026.
- f. Board organization: Bella asks if the board would like to discuss board members' roles, following Jono stepping down as Chair. The board will table this discussion until more members have joined.

6. **Meeting wrap-up**

- a. Known agenda items for April meeting: FLP cattail RDA, Jim Hicks possible donation property visit, CR inventory
- b. April meeting date: 4/7/25

7. **Executive Session: Executive Session to prepare for Special Town Meeting regarding access across 101 Shutesbury Road (Evans-Marlowe) to the Gordon King Life Estate property (Leverett Conservation Commission).**

The Commission did not return to Open Meeting after the Executive Session.

- a. Purpose of Executive Session: (3) Exception to the Open Meeting Law (MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Submitted by: Bella Yeager

Approved on: 4/21/25