

## **Leverett Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: July 21, 2025**

Start time: 7:02 pm

Board attendance: Joan Deely (acting chair); Sarah Manteiga, Seth Heminway, voting members

### **In Person for Dudleyville Rd NOI**

Alex Bouthillette, Niamh Duffy, Kate Wilkins: Tighe & Bond

David Brown, abutter

Richard Nathhorst, Leverett Planning Board

**PUBLIC INQUIRIES:** none

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Dudleyville Rd Drainage Improvements NOI, Tighe & Bond

Kate Wilkins introduces the project, which will replace old and install new culverts along Dudleyville Rd to prevent further washouts throughout the year resulting from unmanaged stormwater runoff, which is also anticipated to improve the water quality of Dudleyville Brook and the Sawmill River by reducing sedimentation. Alex Bouthillette adds that the NOI was put together through the One Stop for Growth program, with \$1 mill allocated for Phase 1 of the project. All alternatives to the proposal were examined. The proposal involves the replacement of 14 existing non-jurisdictional culverts, reported to only be conveying stormwater. The area does not require NHESP permitting. The work will take place in 0-200' Riverfront Area. Per the DEP's notes, there is no known BFE and area is Zone A, meaning the project is assuming location and elevation of BLSF.

Seth: Time of year for work?

Alex: Fall 2025 – substantial completion before winter

Joan: Current condition of culverts?

Alex: describes replacement details p 3-7 of the NOI - all 14 existing culverts will be replaced, with 12 being upsized, and two new culverts will be installed.

Seth: Will new culverts will remain as close to existing grade as possible for wildlife passage?

Kate: Project will follow BMPs, but engineers anticipate that wildlife will likely continue to use the roadway as they do now.

Alex: explains catch basin drop inlet structure of pipes to capture oils, debris.

Seth: asks about annual maintenance schedule for sumps? Will this come from Hwy Dept. budget?

Richard: Town brings in a Mack truck for maintenance currently, would do the same for this.

Bella: Dewatering plan to be presented to contractor and shown to ConCom at pre-construction meeting?

Alex: Yes.

Bella: asks about the instances on pages 5-11 and 5-13 where the Commission is requested to grant Limited Project Status.

Kate Wilkins: Explains that this has to do with the upsizing of culverts, and that this is an unavoidable element of the project.

Richard: This is supposed to be a model project for other communities.

Joan: Makes a motion to issue an OOC. Seth seconds. Unanimous.

Bella will add special conditions for a dewatering plan and getting all landowners' signatures or easements granted to the Town before work can begin.

David Brown, abutter, asks some questions about the work and how it will affect his own driveway renovation project. Richard will do site visit with him.

## **NEW & OLD BUSINESS**

### **Viewing platform on Leverett Pond**

Seth: Jim Field wanted to install a viewing platform on Lev Pond — talked to Trails Committee, which met with Steve Weiss, Joan Godsey, Tom Hankinson to look at the site & boardwalk concept. Decided it's a viable idea. ADA compliance, parking? Is Town-owned property, will likely be spearheaded by FLP.

Sarah: How many feet of boardwalk to get to platform?

Seth: Several hundred, could use satellite imagery that Mitch has.

What would the cost & funding source be? Possibly CPA.

### **Hicks/Botta land donation**

Eva & Bill to help w/ CR work.

Seth: recommends using Heronemus for Baseline Documentation model.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Minutes approval: 6/2/25**

Seth moves to approve with amendments to attendance stating that Julia Firl was not present and Bill Corwin was. Joan seconds. Unanimous.

Richard: The newly adopted Floodplain Model Bylaw will require ConCom input, cooperation between Planning & ConCom. Richard will schedule a meeting for the boards.

## **MEETING WRAP-UP**

Next meeting date: Sept 8

Joan moves to adjourn the meeting. Seth seconds. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27

Minutes taken by Isabella Yeager.  
Approved 9/22/25.