

**Conservation Commission Meeting
July 10, 2019
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Fair (VC) at 7:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Fair, Ambs, Pagliarulo, Dufresne

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Fair asked everyone to introduce themselves considering there were three new Commissioners present. Willson shared pictures of the construction of the Station Rd temporary bridge. She stated this work was permitted through the Conservation Commission and the Commission will see the application for the permanent bridge most likely sometime in the next year. They are currently constructing the ramps onto the bridge, they consist of asphalt on top of flowable fill concrete. The abutments were previously installed and the folded bridge laid. The Town is estimating a bridge opening next week. DPW did a good job protecting the Hop Brook during construction, netting was used under the bridge to catch debris and sediment throughout construction, and erosion control is installed.

Willson stated ecoli was detected in Puffers Pond and the beach had to be closed. The next round of sampling was below the regulated limit for beach closure, and the beach was re-opened right before July 4th weekend. It's open as of today. Ambs asked if the Con Com is responsible for deciding the close the beach or the Health Dept. Willson said the sampling is done by the Health Department and if limits are exceeded they are required to post signs stating "unhealthy water swim at your own risk". Willson believes the decision to announce closure is made by the Conservation Department because the beach is not a certified beach, so it's always swim at your own risk. She stated people seem to be following the new driving and parking arrangement on State St.

Willson stated the Town has announced they are looking at a property on Southeast St. for the new DPW building. North of the intersection of Southeast St. and Stanley St., it's a 26 area property. They will need wetland permitting for the entrance/driveway because there is a stream and BVW. More information is available on the Town webpage. The current location of the DPW building on S. Pleasant is where the Town is thinking of putting the new Fire Station building. She stated in the Con Com packet are two reports from erosion control monitors, one from University Drive and one from Pulpit Hill Solar project.

MINUTES

Minutes 6-26-29

No quorum to vote on minutes.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Conservation Land Management

Puffers Pond Update - Willson discussed during Wetlands Administrators report.

NO HEARINGS

Miscellaneous Untimed Items

- Certificate of Compliance –26 Wildflower Drive & two abutting parcels

Willson stated this is a request for Certificate of Compliance for a very old Order of Conditions from 1981. The Order is for construction of the infrastructure for Amherst Hill subdivision. Each lot in the subdivision is included in the overarching order and the order shows up on the property titles until a COC is issued. So, we're being asked to issue a partial COC just for this lot. The house construction looked fine during the site visit, no encroachment into obvious wetlands was observed.

Ambs moved and Pagliurolo seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to issue the COC.

- Emergency Certification - Beaver dam breach Norwottuck Rail Trail

Willson stated there continue to be problems with beaver dams along the north/east side of the rail trail. DCR owns the land within 40 ft of the center line of the trail. They pay a consultant to breach dams, install beaver deceiver/pond levelers, and trap beavers. The Commission approves requests to breach the dams, the Health Dept deals with permitting trapping. This work will be done by Integrated Wildlife who specialize in dealing with beavers. Beavers have built a dam behind the outflow of a pond leveler causing it to fail. Integrated Wildlife have breached once and will go out again this week to finish.

Ambs moved and Pagliurolo seconded. Commission VOTED (4-0-0) to ratify the Emergency Certification.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:40 PM.