

**Conservation Commission Meeting
July 24, 2019
First Floor, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Butler (C) at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Butler, Fair, Gauthier, Ambs, Dufresne

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson presented photos from Pomeroy Crt electrical conduit installation project. Eversource is doing the work using directional drilling which reduces impacts. They trenched over the Plum Brook. Work should be finishing up next week. She stated there is a letter from the Ag Commission in the meeting packet. Ag Commission is interested in being a part of discussion regarding ag use on conservation land and other aspects of what we do having to do with agriculture. There was a site walk that Butler attended to look at potential locations for farming on conservation land. Willson stated the Con Com has issued RFPs over the years to license conservation land for ag use. Willson stated what she heard came from the site visit was that we will be issuing an RFP for land at Amethyst Brook, and bringing the Ag Com in on the discussions about Fort River Farm. Gauthier stated she wasn't comfortable with a couple of the statements in the letter regarding the Ag Com being given management over conservation land used for agriculture. Fair stated there are a lot of competing uses on conservation land one being agriculture, and if we allow those supporting ag to vote on land use shouldn't we give all interests a vote? Fair wanted to make sure Ryan Karb as chair of the Ag Com recuses himself from anything having to do with the Amethyst Brook ag use if he applies as farmer. Ambs asked for a description of the RFP process, Willson provided a summary. Butler stated he finds the letter problematic, the wording, and sentiment. He does want to work with the Ag Com on all ag issues. Fair echoes what Butler said. Willson stated there are a number of comments in the letter, to start the process of responding how about each Con Com member email Willson their concerns and she will compile and we can talk more at the next meeting.

Butler stated during the site visit they discussed three locations but only went to two, Wentworth and Fort River Farm. Fair asked which part of Wentworth Farm will be farmed. Butler said they looked at two spots, one around the far side of the pond which we advertised last time, and the area just the right when you come in. Butler stated the fenced area at Fort River Farm may be used for a combination of community gardens and incubator farm for new farmers.

Willson stated the Wetlands Administrator position was posted on the Town webpage. They have some responses and are organizing interviews. Butler, Fair & Gauthier stated they would like a copy to distribute. Fair asked if Con Com members will play a role in the hiring. Willson said she didn't think so but Butler should email Ziomek and request to be involved. Butler asked what the schedule for the ag RFP is, Willson responded she didn't know, she is not working on it but will check with Ziomek.

MINUTES

Minutes 6-26-19 & 7-10-19

Fair moved and Butler seconded. Commission VOTED (2-0-0, Gauthier, Ambs, Dufresne abstain) to approve the minutes of 6-26-19.

Ambs moved and Dufresne seconded. Commission VOTED (3-0-0, Butler & Gauthier abstain) to approve the minutes of 7-10-19.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

Miscellaneous Untimed Items

- Certificates of Compliance – Pelham Rd MGP Site (DEP #s 89-429, 89-457, 89-507, 89-530)

Kate Wilken, Tighe & Bond, representing Eversource Energy for these COCs for four Orders of Conditions for the old manufactured gas plant at 36 Pelham Rd. It's next to the Fort River and was active between 1916 & 1930. A byproduct is coal tar, a dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL), so sinks to the bottom of the water column. In 2002, site investigations began. They split the site into two areas, non-potential aquifer and low-potential aquifer. The low-potential aquifer area has essentially been closed out with MADEP. They are waiting for an audit from MADEP to remove the monitoring and treatment wells in that area. The non-potential aquifer area is still being treated, meaning DNAPL is being removed from wells. Wilken then described the work permitted under each Order of Conditions. Wilken submitted a copy of a Wood Turtle assessment and protection plan for the file, Tighe & Bond was not sure if those had ever been submitted. Currently the site is still in the recovery and remediation phase, the plan is to continue this until 2023 at which time they will reassess if more remediation needs to be done. If more excavation or installation of monitoring or recovery wells is needed they will bring that to the Commission. They're hoping to issue a close of the project in 2027/28.

Fair asked why close out the Order before the work is complete? Willson responded each order is for specific work such as clearing to install monitoring wells, and that work has been completed. Gauthier asked if they would have to come back to close out the site? Willson said Wilken was referring to close out under the MCP (state regs for contaminated sites) not the Wetlands Protection Act. Willson added they may have come back for additional permitting if they need to do further remediation work. Willson asked if any of the DNAPL recovery happened down stream? Wilken didn't think so, she said it does look like more work will be needed at the site.

Butler asked how the Commission will be updated on the progress of the remediation at the site? Willson stated the Town gets copies of the annual reports to MADEP under the MCP regulations. She added she will bring the most recent report from June 2019 to the next meeting. Butler asked what kind of sampling did they do downstream? Wilken responded, soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater sampling was conducted. Willson shared a map of the downstream sampling locations. Butler asked when the remediation/monitoring reports come out. Wilken to look into, Willson to bring most recent to next meeting.

Butler asked if there was a site visit. Willson said yes, she went by today and she shared photos from her site visit.

Fair moved and Gauthier seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Order with DEP #89-429.

Fair moved and Ambs seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Order with DEP #89-457.

Fair moved and Ambs seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Order with DEP #89-507.

Fair moved and Gauthier seconded. Commission VOTED (5-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Order with DEP #89-530.

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

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:15 PM.