

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 12, 2020  
Town Room, TOWN HALL  
7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Brett Butler, Ana Devlin Gauthier, Jenn Fair, and Lawrence Ambs.

**Members Absent:** Fletcher Clark, Laura Pagliarulo.

**Staff Present:** Erin Jacque, Wetlands Administrator, and David Ziomek, Director of Conservation & Development.

**Director's Report (Dave)**

Ziomek noted that projects on the Robert Frost Trail are being evaluated, and the Department may do a bundled Notice of Intent. Hickory Ridge – Town exploring the SMART energy program waiting for a response. Work plan is being assembled for summer (KC bridge), Amethyst Brook Bridge, smaller bridge projects, possible Eagle Scout Project. Puffers Pond breakfast June 13, 2020 to raise money for Puffers Pond Trail Work.

Devlin Gauthier raised concern that there were no gates at Amethyst Brook or Wentworth Farm.

**7:10 PM Conservation Land Management – Common School Use of Larch Hill Property**

**7:30 PM Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation** – Confirm whether resource area boundaries depicted on the submitted plans are accurate under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and Town of Amherst Wetlands Protection Bylaw Regulations at Shutesbury Road (Map 9B, Parcel 11 & 12; Map 9D, Parcel 27).

Request to continue the public hearing on behalf of the applicant.

*Moved by Devlin Gauthier to continue the public hearing to February 26, 2020 at 8:00 PM.  
Seconded by Fair.*

**7:45 PM Request for Determination** – Berkshire Design Associates for proposed building addition to create a duplex dwelling, removal of 2-car garage, new gravel driveway, parking and associated work at 187 College Street (Map 14B, Lot 169).

*Moved by Ambs to approve. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. Vote 2/1/1.*

*Moved by Devlin Gauthier to withdraw the vote and continue the public hearing until February 26, 2020 at 8:05 PM. All in favor.*

**8:00 PM Notice of Intent:** BSC Group for Eversource Energy proposing installation of new utility pole between a residence and an existing utility pole on the road shoulder. Removal of 18 trees, some located within bordering vegetated wetland and riverfront area is proposed to connect the overhead distribution line to the pole at 426 State Street (Map 3C, Lot 74).

*Moved by Fair to close the public hearing. Seconded by Ana. All in favor.*

*Moved by Fair to approve the Order of Conditions for installation of the new utility pole as a limited project, with restoration plantings of 12 Highbush Blueberry and 6-8 2.5" caliper trees or financial equivalent. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.*

Szala Realty Trust – Sunderland Road (2A-7) 16A- Notice to Convert to Other Use

*Moved by Ambs not to exercise the right of first refusal on the Szala Property. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.*

Informal Discussion – 1 University Drive South

*Moved by Fair to approve the minor administrative change as presented. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.*

Market Hill Road

*Moved by Devlin Gauthier to accept the care, custody and control of Market Hill Road Cowles/Keet Haskins property. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.*

*Moved by Fair, seconded by Devlin Gauthier to adjourn. All in favor.*