

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
October 13, 2021
7:00 PM**

Present: Jenn Fair, Chair, LeRoy Gaynor, Vice Chair, Fletcher Clark, Ana Devlin Gauthier, Michelle Labbe, Lawrence Ambs, Laura Pagliarulo.

Absent: Laura Pagliarulo had to leave the call at 8:00 PM.

Staff Present: Erin Jacque, Wetlands Administrator, David Ziomek, Director of Conservation & Development/Assistant Town Manager

Comments from the Chair (Jenn Fair) None.

Director's Report (Dave)

Noted the following updates:

Attended Kestrel Land Trust Events

Some issues with the parking area at Sweet Alice we are working to resolve

Food Bank Farm Event

Working on trail issues

Events at Hickory Ridge (220 people attended), engage section of the town web site

Final stages of the CR on the town landfill

Robert Frost Trail work

Wetland Administrator's Report (Erin)

Jacque gave an update on Canton Ave.

Land Use Applications

Kestrel Land Trust Chris Valente, Stewardship Director proposed owl banding project using mist nets and an audio unit to lure the owls. Recommended having a greeter to lead people to Kestrel. Labbe recommended that permit numbers be provided. Ziomek noted police should be notified, for night events, number of attendees and vehicles are needed, escorts from parking area to kestrel.

Valente stated there will be 4 nets, 2 banders, and 2 people checking nets.

Moved by Ambs to approve the land use application. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.

7:30 PM Request for Determination – Town of Amherst Department of Public Works for expansion and paving of parking area at Baby Carriage Brook Treatment Plant, and repaving of the access road in the buffer to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at Well #4 Road (Map 24C, Parcel 1).

Moved by Devlin Gauthier to issue a Positive Determine under the Wetlands Bylaw and a Negative Determination under the Wetlands Bylaw for Baby Carriage Driveway and Parking at Well #4. Seconded by Clark. All in favor.

7:35 PM Request for Determination – Anna Marie Gijzen for replacement of existing swimming pool in the buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 407 Old Farms Road. Review under Wetlands Bylaw only (Map 18C, Parcel 28).

Moved by...to issue a Positive Determination of Applicability under the Wetlands Bylaw (Minor Activity exemption under WPA). Seconded by Gaynor. All in favor.

7:35 PM Request for Determination – Alon Confino for removal of shrubs and installation of a fence in the buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 30 Hedgerow Lane (Map 12C, Parcel 26).

Moved by Clark to issue a Positive Determination under the Local Wetlands Bylaw and a Negative Determination under the Wetlands Protection Act. Seconded by Pagliarulo.

7:45 PM Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – SWCA for confirmation of resource area boundaries at 52 Fearing St; 336 & 346 N Pleasant St (Map 11C, Parcels 123, 124, 159, 160, 162, 163, & 164).

Fair opened the hearing. The applicant was not in attendance. Jacque stated she asked the applicant to attend so the watershed delineation could be discussed. The Commission decided not to discuss the watershed delineation so the applicant could be present.

Public Comment:

Barbara Pearson: Noted current ponding.

Rolf: Asked how the change in delineation would impact the proposed dorm housing.

Jacque stated that the delineation will not impact that site.

Gabor stated he abuts 52 Fearing Street and had a permit denied because at the time due to Riverfront Regulations.

Michelle Hosp: Asked what happens when applicant does not show up.

Fair noted the hearing will be continued.

Freddy Manning: Asked about the designation at the parking lot.

Jacque noted the stream was previously deemed perennial at the culvert inlet, but Riverfront does not apply to a stream piped underground.

Moved by Clark to continue 246 Montague Road to October 27, 2021 7:35 PM. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.

7:50 PM Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation –SWCA for Barry Roberts/Stanley Mitchell Life Estate for confirmation of resource area boundaries (Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Bank) at 246 Montague Road (Map 2C, Parcels 1-12, 12).

Moved by Clark to continue hearing for 246 Montague Road to October 27, 2021 at 7:40 PM. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.

Moved by Clark to adjourn at 8:58 PM. Seconded by LeRoy, All in favor.