

**Conservation Commission Meeting
April 21, 2015
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. Boice, Vice Chair at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Boice, Allen, Healey, Brooks, Clark, Butler

Staff: Willson

CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS

Willson stated that the Puffer's Pond Improvement Project public mtg went well. Willson will be presenting the project to the Planning Board on 4/22/15, project has already been approved by the Design Review Board. The deadline for responses to Wentworth Farm RFP was extended until 4/23/15 because some farmers have called saying they did not get the RFP. There was a cleanup day at Wentworth Farm last week, one volunteer showed up. Staff and the volunteer moved a number of bluebird and kestrel boxes. Work at the Norwottuck Rail Trail parking area continues, they've installed concrete pads for picnic tables, a bike rack, and a port-a-potty. Contractor is currently removing old pavement between Southeast St. and Station Rd. Should be done removing pavement by the end of next week and will start paving. There are two monitoring reports in the packets for the Norwottuck Rail Trail and for Eastman Ln project. At Eastman Ln they plan on loaming and hydroseeding in the next couple weeks.

MINUTES

No minutes reviewed.

PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS

7:15 PM Presentation – Lisa Selkirk regarding Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan/Northeast Direct natural gas pipeline Town Meeting petition resolution (Article 30).

Lisa Selkirk stated she's coming before the Commission to inform and answer questions about the pipeline and also to see if the Commission would be willing to provide a statement of support for the petition resolution. The Select Board has decided to provide a statement of support. If the resolution is past it puts the Town of Amherst in opposition to construction of this pipeline and any other proposed pipelines carrying fracked gas through the Commonwealth. Opposes taxes that would be used to fund pipeline and puts Amherst in solidarity with other communities opposing the pipeline. The pipeline route has partially been moved north into NH. She feels this is under the purview of the Con Com because it involves the impacts of climate change that will be felt everywhere including Amherst. Opposing construction of fossil fuel infrastructure is a way to help move toward renewable energy which is in the Amherst Master Plan. The pipeline route does pass through conservation lands protected under Article 97 so would require 2/3 vote of legislature to be built in those areas. If Amherst passes this resolution it sends a message to state reps to oppose the Article 97 vote.

Butler stated he didn't feel voting to support the resolution was in the Commission's purview, it has nothing to do with wetlands or Conservation land in Amherst. Allen stated it does have to do with Conservation land within the state.

Allen moved to support the petition, no second motion fails.

Clark stated he also felt taking a stance on the petition was not under the purview of the Commission. Healey added because it's outside the Town of Amherst she doesn't feel it's under Con Com purview.

7:30 PM Notice of Intent (cont'd from 4-8-15 mtg) – Mill Valley Estates LTD Partners for sidewalk and drainage system improvements within buffer zone to bank and bordering vegetated wetlands at Mill Valley Estates, 420 Riverglade Drive (Map 19B, Parcel 15).

Boice stated the applicant has requested that this hearing be continued because they have not heard from NHESP.

Brooks moved and Clark seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to continue the public hearing until 5/13/15 at 7:30pm.

Miscellaneous Untimed Items:

- Certificate of Compliance – 18 Evening Star Dr.

Willson stated that this OOC is for construction of the entire subdivision, driveways, houses, stormwater system and wetland replication. One lot was never built on, however, the permit has expired so any proposed new work would require a new filing. The developer was Shaul Perry. Willson shared pictures from the site visit. Brooks stated that the site looked good, wetlands look healthy, no dumping observed. The culvert was open and flowing.

Brooks moved and Healey seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Re-issue Certificate of Compliance – 28 Hulst Rd.

Willson stated a Certificate of Compliance was issued a number of years ago but was never recorded so we need to re-issue the COC. No site inspection required.

Allen moved and Brooks seconded. Commission VOTED (6-0-0) to re-issue the Certificate of Compliance.

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 7:55 PM.