Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Edward Knight called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Present were Commissioners: Joseph Babineau, Mike Cavatorta and John Henry. LeeAnne Connolly, Conservation Administrator, was present for the meeting. Conservation Clerk, Michele Nowak, recorded the minutes. Chairman David Haines and Commissioners Jon Clements and Nick Burns were not present for the meeting. Associate member Linda Leduc was also not present for the meeting.

7:15 Request for Determination – 192 Daniel Shays Highway, tree cutting/driveway, Map 231, Lot #28.00, Joseph & Sandra Fitzpatrick, applicants. The applicants were present for the meeting. J. Babineau conducted the site visit and met with applicants on site this afternoon. The applicant proposes to cut 10 hemlocks that are dead and will leave the stumps. All the trees are on established lawn. The Commission had concerns that there was no silt fence showing on the plan. The Commission discussed where the best placement of the silt fence should be. The Commission had concerns as to what means by which the trees were going to be cut. The Commission was amenable to the proposed plan for the cutting of trees but had many concerns about the proposed extension of the driveway and the substance they were going to pave it with, due to its proximity to Jabish Brook and floodplain impacts. The Commission would like the applicant to submit a revised plan showing the placement of the silt fence. L. Connolly will contact DEP regarding compensatory storage issues. With the applicant’s permission, the hearing will be continued until the October 24th’s meeting. M. Cavatorta motioned to continue the meeting, with the applicant’s permission until October 24, J. Henry seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).

7:30 Request for Determination – 107 Channel Dr., driveway installation, Map 101, Lot #51.00, Elaine Cat, applicant. The applicant was present for the meeting. This is an after-the-fact filing. The driveway has already been installed to access a camping site. E. Knight conducted the site visit and he reported that everything appeared to be stable. The limit of work is 85 feet from the Bank of Holland Pond. The applicant stated that the driveway extension is using the old leach field area that was originally there and they used permeable turf stone to line the driveway. All work is over 85 ft. from the Bank of the lake and located across the street. J. Henry motioned to issue a Negative Determination, J. Babineau seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).

7:45 Request for Determination – South Washington St., wetland delineation, Map 268, Lot #28.05 (4), Susan & Martin Denette, applicants. The applicant was present for the meeting. J. Henry conducted the site visit and reviewed the wetland delineation done by Keith Morris. The Commission agrees with the way it was flagged and has no concerns with the delineation. The applicant questioned being able to mow to show the lot to prospective buyers. The Commission advised moving where it has been traditionally mowed on the adjacent lot, from the street to no further than the 25 ft. from the wetland flags. M. Cavatorta motioned to issue a Positive Determination for the Wetland delineation, J. Babineau seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).

8:00 Request for Determination – North Washington St., utility pole installation, Map 268, Lot #22.04 & #22.05, Mass Electric Company, applicant. Chris Fox from BSC Group was present representing the applicant, a/k/a National Grid. J. Henry conducted the site visit. The applicant stated that there are two poles that are going to be installed on the East side, in the Buffer Zone BVW at the edge of the field, in an already disturbed area due to the houses being built. There is one tree that needs to be trimmed only; it will not be removed. The applicant will be installing grounding rods on the existing poles. No work is proposed closer than 50 ft. J. Henry motioned to issue a Negative Determination, J. Babineau seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).
8:15 Request for Determination – 55 Chauncey Walker St., septic repair, Map 255, Lot #99.00, Leonard Mosca, applicant. The applicant was not present for the meeting. Neil Jackson was present for the meeting representing the applicant. J. Babineau conducted the site visit. The proposed work will be in a previously disturbed area. The limit of work is 40 ft. from the wetland and on existing lawn. The applicant is keeping the tank and the grading will be 40 ft. from the wetland but the actual leach-field will be 50 ft. from the wetland flags. The Commission agreed that in order to stay 100 ft. away from the well, there was no other location for the leach-field to be located. J. Henry motioned to issue a Negative Determination, J. Babineau seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).

Discussion Items: Bills – The Commission voted unanimously, (4:0), to pay the bills.
- Minutes - The Commission voted unanimously, (4:0), to approve the 9/26/16 draft minutes as written.
- Miscellaneous Matters – L. Connolly informed the Commission that she will apply for a Mass Environmental Trust Grant for 25K for hydro-raking the channel between Lake Arcadia and Holland Pond, and bog removal to improve the flow, and improve water quality and access for the public. She has to submit a letter of interest to the grant program by 11/4/16.
- New Business – Amended Forest Cutting Plan for Aldrich Street that was done in 2005. There was an NOI on file. The Commission reviewed this Amended Forest Cutting plan.
- Emergency Certifications – #3 New Artesian Wells, 29 Ware Rd., 239 Amherst Rd. & 146 South Liberty St. – 3 shallow wells ran dry this week. The BOH is overseeing all work. L. Connolly verified with DEP that the RDA requirements can be waived under an Emergency Certification. The wells can be installed with Special Conditions, 1) a pit will be dug to catch all well drillings and 2) erosion controls will be installed prior to the start of any work. M. Cavatorta motioned to ratify all three Emergency Certifications, J. Henry seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).
- Forest Cutting Plan – Hamilton St., Town of Belchertown, owner. The Commission reviewed this forest cutting plan.
- MACC Fall Conference - the MACC conference held on 10/29/16 will focus on Forest Stewardship.
- ANR Plan – Channel Dr., Arthur Bessette, owner. The Commission reviewed the ANR plan and a standard letter will be sent to the applicant.
- Partial Certificate of Compliance – 111 Daniel shays Highway, DEP #104-0747, Summerhill Subdivision, Units #1 - #4, Neil Jackson, applicant. L. Connolly conducted the site visit for the condos for the elderly. She reported that the Units #1-#4 are stable and recommended release from the subdivision Order of Conditions. M. Cavatorta motioned to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance for the 4 units, J. Babineau seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).

8:20 M. Cavatorta motioned to adjourn, J. Babineau seconded. The motion passed unanimously, (4:0).

NEXT MEETING Monday, October 24, 2016