

Shutesbury Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2019 Shutesbury Town Hall

Site Visits (Summaries attached)

August 19, 2019

Attending: Penny Jaques and Jennifer Wallace/Commissioners

1. Wheelock Solar Site/Pratt Corner Road/LSDP 12, LLC: observe site vegetation

August 27, 2019

Attending: Penny Jaques, Barry Field and Russ Mizula/Commissioners

1. 542 West Pelham Road/Belcher: BPA for new free standing office/studio

September 12, 2019

Attending: Penny Jaques and Barry Field/Commissioners

1. 88 Shore Drive/Kingsbury: BPA for new deck on front of house and renovation of back deck
2. 21 South Laurel Drive/Kocot: observe site post-work

Conservation Commissioners present: Penny Jaques and Barry Field

Conservation Commissioner absent: Russ Mizula

Staff present: Linda Avis Scott/Land Use Clerk

Guests: Robin Harrington, Tim McBride/11 Pine Drive, and Brian Campedelli/Easthampton Landscaping

Jaques calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Commissioners prepare site visit summaries and review the RDA for 11 Pine Drive.

Open Public Meeting for RDA at 11 Pine Drive at 7:30pm

Property owner/applicant Tim McBride and contractor Brian Campedelli/Easthampton Landscaping are present. Legal and abutter notification documents are received for the record (see file). McBride: the proposed project is for the installation of a pump, into Lake Wyola, to be used for lawn irrigation during the four hottest months, June – September; the fully detachable pump will be installed when the seasonal dock is put into the lake. Campedelli explains that the system has thirteen heads; 1” of water/week for the lawn and plantings is optimal though 1.5” of water is needed during the hot season; there will be three twenty minute watering sessions/week. Campedelli estimates that the system will use approximately 100 gallons/month and, based on the size of the lake, that is a “drop in the bucket”. McBride states the he understands Jaques concern about over-watering and affirms his commitment to limiting the amount of time the pump is used. Jaques encourages planting perennials and small shrubs along the edge of the lake’s bank and to refrain from mowing right up to the edge of the bank. McBride states his preference for maintaining the large strip of perennial grass growing along the edge noting that seeding will be done up to this grass; while hand watering the new shrubs, he observed that this strip kept the rivulets of water from going into the lake. Campedelli acknowledges knowing of the need to maintain this strip while landscaping the site. Jaques reaffirms the need to avoid planting non-native grass up to the bank’s edge; the low indigenous grass will absorb water and hold the bank in place. McBride and Campedelli agree to work on a plan to plant/maintain indigenous grass and other perennials along the bank to either side of the dock area. Field notes the need for a condition requiring that irrigation cease during State declared drought conditions.

The process for issuing a Determination and the appeal period are explained. At 7:55pm, Commissioners agree to close the public meeting and issue a Negative Determination with conditions. McBride and Campedelli leave the meeting.

Jaques moves and Field seconds a motion to approve the 8.8.19 meeting minutes; the minutes, as presented, are unanimously approved.

Jaques moves and Field seconds a motion to request the Select Board to appoint Robin Harrington to the Commission; the motion passes unanimously. The next Select Board meeting is 9.17.19.

Mail: Anti-discrimination training 9.25.19 and upcoming MACC trainings

ConCom brochures will be included on the Town information table during Celebrate Shutesbury.

Scott is compiling the FY19 Activity/Highlights Log; when this is complete, Jaques will draft the FY19 Annual Report.

Site Visit Follow-up:

- Wheelock Solar Site: Jaques and Wallace, along with Harrington and members of the Planning Board, attended the 8.19.19 site visit. Per Jaques, a random pattern of vegetation covers 40-50% of the area underneath the solar panels; no invasive species appeared to be present and no erosion concerns were observed. Jaques proposes the Commission write a memo to the Planning Board requiring removal of the erosion controls and reseeded of the site in the fall, reseeded again in the spring of 2020 in order to attain reasonable coverage, as well as, recommending the Planning Board require the applicant to adhere to the relevant Special Permit conditions. Field proposes and Jaques agrees to draft and send the memo.
- 542 West Pelham Road/Belcher: there being no wetland concerns, the building permit application sign-off was completed.
- 88 Shore Drive/Kingsbury: there being no wetland concerns, the building permit application sign-off will be completed.
- 21 South Laurel Drive/Kocot: the project is complete and the lawn is well-established; the low mound with “offs” will receive downhill runoff.
- 28-30 North Laurel Drive/Miller: the installation of the rain garden was not evident via a drive-by of the site. Scott will contact the property owner, Roberta Miller, for an update on plans for the garden’s installation.

Pine & Shore Drive/LWA: Commissioners received the 9.3.19 email from Tracy McNaughton/LWA containing the 9.3.19 email from Tim Hunting/Highway Superintendent: “so I did look at it today...sounds like your plan will work fine. I assume that the plow berms mentioned in phase 2 are along the road edges as I didn’t notice any big piles...” (See file).

Top of the Lake Conservation Area: Per Jaques, the Recreation Committee will be the formal Notice of Intent applicant for the canoe/kayak launch project.

South Brook Conservation Area: Commissioners receive and review the 8.18.19 notated map and photos prepared by Jennifer Wallace. It is noted that individuals occasionally store their canoes on the side of the path closest to the lake. Jaques, with help from a volunteer, will be staining the kiosk. As proposed by Jaques, Commissioners review and approve wording for signage. Commissioners review the resume submitted by intern candidate Kayla Speros; the goal is for Speros to map the South Brook Conservation Area; Jaques will follow-up with Speros to arrange a meeting.

Highway Department FY2020 Projects: Commissioners receive and review the FY20 project list prepared by Hunting – construction of the catch basin at the intersection of Locks Pond and Wendell Road is complete, the repaving of Leverett/Cooleyville/Prescott Road to the Fire Station is in process, and extending two existing culverts on Montague Road remains to be completed.

Eversource Line 354 Project: Field, noting that the erosion control needs to remain functional, states his concern that crushed stone is pushing the erosion control barrier out and may cause the silt fence to become buried. Field recommends continuing to monitor the situation and consider the matter during the 9.26.19 meeting.

Sumner Mountain Conservation Restriction: Commissioners receive and review the 8.29.19 letter from property owners Joan Antonino and Charles DiMare written in response to the Commission's 8.27.19 post-monitoring visit letter (see file). Jaques suggests and Field agrees to invite the owners to the Commission's 11.14.19 meeting to talk about their Conservation Restriction, specifically vernal pool certification, the need for permanent markers, and management of invasive species in the borrow pit located in Area #1. Scott will contact Antonino and DiMare and invite them to attend the 11.14.19 meeting.

Commissioners prepare the 11 Pine Drive Determination of Applicability for issuance 9.13.19.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Avis Scott  
Land Use Clerk