

Shutesbury Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2019 Shutesbury Town Hall

Site Visit (Summary attached)

September 30, 2019

Attending: Penny Jaques and Robin Harrington/Commissioners

1. 15 Cove Road/Raczynski: evaluate plans for removal of glossy buckthorn

Conservation Commissioners present: Penny Jaques, Barry Field and Russ Mizula

Conservation Commissioner absent: Robin Harrington

Staff present: Linda Avis Scott/Land Use Clerk

Guests: Don Wakoluk/Tree Warden; Mary Jo Johnson and Melanie Chartier/11 Great Pines Ext.

Jaques calls the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Due to lack of a quorum, no meeting was held on 9.26.19.

11 Great Pines Ext./Johnson: Don Wakoluk/Tree Warden explains jurisdiction of the Tree Warden: town trees 25' from the center of the road and trees located on Town-owned land; in this case, the trees are located on South Brook Conservation Area, a property managed by the Conservation Commission and that abuts Johnson's site. Per Wakoluk, there are several decaying birches on the steep bank behind Johnson's home that are dropping branches on the house roof – these trees will easily fall to the ground; the concerning tree is a 22" dbh (diameter at breast height) white pine on the bank that leans at a 45 degree angle toward the house. Wakoluk continues: if the SCC approves removal of the white pine, arrangements for cutting the tree will be made with the Shutesbury Highway Department; the stump will remain in place. The next step is for the SCC to schedule a site visit with Wakoluk and Johnson.

Field moves and Jaques seconds a motion to approve the 9.12.19 meeting minutes; the minutes are approved as presented by Jaques and Field; Mizula abstains.

Mail: 10.22.19 "Successful Culvert Replacement Training"

Commissioners consider the 9.26.19 email from Donna West (see attached) requesting a correction to the 8.8.19 meeting minutes that reads "We have reason to believe that an abutter on Pine Drive may be violating the Wetlands Act by diverting stormwater into the road. I request that this committee investigate this issue and this committee take appropriate action as you see fit" (page 2, paragraph 3, sentence beginning "Donna West/Lake Wyola Association: we"). Commissioners unanimously agree to include West's requested amendment in the minutes for this meeting.

Commissioners acknowledge receipt of WPA Form 8A Request for Certificate of Compliance for 48 Lake Drive/Dallmus; a site visit will be scheduled.

Forest Cutting Plans:

1. Montague Road/Eddy Lot/Cowls: Final; no SCC action.
2. Pelham Hill Road/Gjeltema: Final; no SCC action.
3. Off Pelham Hill Road/Leonard-Berry Lot/Cowls: Final; no SCC action.

Site Visit Follow-up:

1. 15 Cove Road/Raczynski: The plan for glossy buckthorn removal is to leave 6-12" stumps that will be covered with tin cans to prevent re-sprouting; no stump removal, use of herbicides or alteration of the buffer zone; some plants are located on the Lake Wyola bank. Letter regarding project conditions has been sent.

SCC 191010

South Brook Conservation Area: Per Jaques, UMass intern Kayla Speros has begun mapping the northern portion of the area.

2019-2020 Lake Level Lowering and Raising Procedure: Based on recent research by Jason Carmignari, Jaques recommends that the lowering rate be 2"/day rather than 3"/day; a more gradual rate is beneficial for invertebrates who need to move to deeper water as the lake is lowered. In order to accommodate the more gradual lowering, Jaques suggests starting the lowering procedure one week earlier than previously proposed. Per Jaques, Mark Rivers/Lake Wyola Advisory Committee Chair supports this change to the document. It is noted that the "Operational Methods" section will have to be rewritten to indicate the number of inches the gate will be opened to lower the lake by 2"/day; the Dam/Gate Keeper Howard Kinder will need to review the document and provide the specifications for gate opening. Jaques, per Carmignari, the spring fill rate is not as critical as the lowering rate. Jaques will continue to work with Rivers to revise the document (see file).

Scott refers the Commission to a 9.2.19 email from Jennifer Wallace regarding Emily Stockman's willingness to work with volunteer researchers to conduct baseline and targeted data collection (see file).

Top of the Lake Conservation Area: No news regarding the canoe/kayak Notice of Intent.

Eversource Line 354 Project: Field will review the file and make a recommendation for follow-up.

Sumner Mountain Conservation Restriction: The Commission will meet with property owner Chuck DiMare on 11.14.19 to review questions about vernal pool certification and areas of concern cited by the Commission and Charles Eiseman during the 2018 and 2019 monitoring visits.

Wheelock Solar Site: Commissioners review the 9.18.19 memo to the Planning Board composed by Jaques subsequent to the 8.19.19 site visit. Per Scott, the Planning Board special permit for system resiliency includes a condition requiring the applicant to ensure revegetation of the site; special permit "General Condition #9" is read into the record (see file).

Old Peach Orchard Conservation Restriction: The annual monitoring visit will be scheduled during the 10.24.19 meeting. Plans for the baseline survey remain pending.

Unanticipated Item:

1. Rostas and Gang Conservation Area: Per Field, because the area has yet to be mowed, he contacted Bradley Bordewieck/Amherst Conservation Land Manager who stated that the field will be mowed this season.

28-30 North Laurel Drive/Miller: Per Scott, there has yet to be a response to the 10.3.19 SCC letter requesting an update regarding the rain garden/grass lined swale installation.

Current financials and MACC resources are reviewed.

Site visits will be conducted 10.16.19.

Posting meeting minutes to the Commission's webpage and the Open Space & Recreation Plan will be considered during a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Avis Scott
Land Use Clerk

SCC 191010