

Shutesbury Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2019 Shutesbury Town Hall

Site Visits (Summaries attached)

October 16, 2019

Attending: Penny Jaques, Barry Field and Russ Mizula

1. 186 West Pelham Road/Hirschfield: PBA for new garage
2. 11 Great Pines Drive Ext/Johnson: evaluate hazard trees
3. 314 West Pelham Road/McKay: BPA to stabilize foundations for garage & addition

Commissioners present: Penny Jaques, Barry Field and Robin Harrington

Commissioner absent: Russ Mizula

Staff present: Linda Avis Scott/Land Use Clerk

Guest: Mark Rivers/Lake Wyola Advisory Committee

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

Review of the 10.10.19 meeting minutes will be carried over to the 11.14.19 meeting.

Lake Wyola Lowering and Raising Procedure Memorandum of Understanding: Commissioners and Mark Rivers/Lake Wyola Advisory Committee (LWAC) Chair review the “Lake Wyola Lowering and Raising Procedure Memorandum of Understanding” draft document. Regarding paragraph #7, Rivers and the Commission agree to designate a member of the Commission to attend the October 2020 LWAC meeting for the purpose of deciding on the 2020 drawdown date based on the long range weather (10 day forecast) that would justify an earlier start date. The Commission will designate this member during one of their September 2020 meetings. Jaques and Rivers concur that the Gate/Dam Keeper will recommend the earlier start date and the LWAC, with SCC representation, will decide whether to agree with the Keeper’s recommendation to start the drawdown earlier than October 25th. The Commission and Rivers therefore agree to the language in paragraph #6 and for Jaques to draft language explaining the process for a Commissioner to attend the October LWAC meeting. Regarding page 2, paragraph #4, “xx” will be completed once the Dam Keeper determines the gate opening distance necessary for a 2” per 24-hour drawdown rate. Per Jaques suggestion, all agree to hold off on signing the final document until the 2019 drawdown is complete. Rivers reports that Emergency Management Director Walter Tibbetts and Howard Kinder/Gate and Dam Keeper installed the staff gauge near the Fiske Brook culvert proximal to the hydrant.

Mail:

1. 10.15.19 letter from FCCIP Building Commissioner James Hawkins regarding unpermitted work at 61 Lakeview Drive/Stockton; SCC will await notification of a BPA.
2. 10.15.19 email from Mark Stinson/DEP Circuit Rider “Mild Drought Conditions in the CT River Valley Effective 9/1/19”

Site Visit Follow-up:

1. 186 West Pelham Road/Hirschfield: During the 10.16.19 site visit, the Commission observed that the garage foundation had already been poured; the property owner was advised to prevent any fill or construction debris from entering the buffer zone of the stream that is just over 100’ from the work area; BPA sign off completed.
2. 11 Great Pines Extension/Johnson: Permission was given for Tree Warden Don Wakoluk to arrange cutting of the three dying birches and one healthy white pine located on the South Brook Conservation Area abutting Johnson’s property; tree branches are dropping on Johnson’s roof.

3. 314 West Pelham Road/McKay: There being no jurisdictional wetlands, sign off on the BPA for stabilization of the garage and addition foundations was completed.

Updates:

- The Town well project is expected to begin within the next few weeks; the erosion control, installed for the Fire Department paving project, will be refreshed.
- No recent updates on the Top of the Lake canoe/kayak launch project.
- No recent news from the South Brook Conservation Area intern; Jaques reports that the kiosk door has been stained and is ready to be installed and that sign language has been sent to the Elliott Park Committee and Town Administrator for feedback.
- Field, after reviewing recent communication regarding the Eversource Line 354 project, recommends holding SCC action until after the next round of work to be completed in December.
- Jaques recommends holding off on any work/recommendations regarding the Open Space and Recreation plan until January 2020.
- Commissioners will meet with Summer Mountain CR owner Chuck DiMare during their 11.14.19 meeting to consider vernal pool certification and concerns identified by the Commission and consultant Charles Eiseman during their respective 2018 and 2019 monitoring visits.
- The Old Peach Orchard Conservation Restriction monitoring visit is planned for 11.5.19 at 11am. Plans for a baseline survey remain pending.
- Response to the SCC 28-30 North Laurel Drive letter remains pending.

Current financials are reviewed. All Commissioners agree to maintain the FY21 expense line at \$1.164.

The discussion regarding posting minutes to the SCC webpage will be considered during a future meeting.

Site visits are scheduled for 10.25.19 and 10.29.19.

Mark Stinson will be asked to attend the Commission's 12.12.19 rather than the 11.14.19 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:20am.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Avis Scott
Land Use Clerk