

Shutesbury Conservation Commission
Minutes – 1/30/23
Approved – (5/25/23)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:00pm

Commissioners Present: Miriam DeFant, Mary David, Robin Harrington, Scott Kahan, Beth Willson

Other present: Members of the Leverett and Wendell Conservation Commissions, Janice Stone, Doc Pruyne, April Stein, Peg Ross, Joan Deely, Frank McGinn, Adam Kohl, Tom Siefert, Ward Smith, Gail Berrigan, Seth Heminway, Mary Lou Conca, and all other unidentified individuals.

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Joint Meeting of SCC with Leverett and Wendell Conservation Commissions to discuss a shared

Conservation Agent: Leverett CC and Wendell CC have both had a part-time, unbenefited Conservation Agent (CA) position held by Kohl, who will be stepping down in the spring. LCC and WCC have found it very helpful having a Conservation Agent. These positions require technical experience and are not just administrative positions. It is difficult to fill part-time, unbenefited positions. CAs typically write permits, conduct site visits and delineations, and prepare regulatory documents. All three CCs have a potential interest in a shared Agent position. Shutesbury does not have a Conservation Agent, only a nonprofessional Land Use Clerk position. SCC has experienced turnover in its staffing and had difficulty filling the last vacancy in 2021. Various models for a shared position were discussed. FRCOG has been studying a shared, multi-town model. There is considerable interest among Franklin County Conservation Commissions. Timing and coordination are a challenge as WCC and LCC are currently anticipating a vacancy in March and SCC does not have an approved CA position at present. Towns cannot also share resumes during recruitment. A joint position would require an inter-municipal agreement and approval of salary/benefits across the three towns. SCC would need to have a CA job description approved by the Personnel Board and then have a budget line approved by Town Meeting for a new position. Three Commissions agree to continue studying issue.

Motion to Adjourn: David moves to adjourn, DeFant seconded. **Vote: David- Aye, DeFant- Aye, Harrington- Aye, Kahan- Aye, and Willson- Aye. So moved.**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Commission Chair, 5/21/23