

**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF CHARLEMONT  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**February 4, 2015**

**Members Present**

Ruth Cannavo  
Tim Eichholz  
Amy Chattin  
Douglas Forbes

**Members Absent**

Bill Harker  
Douglas Johnson

**Others Present**

J.S. Rae  
Doug Dean  
Mike Toohill – BSC group  
Jim Neveu – TransCanada  
Dave Murray - TransCanada

**The meeting was called to order at 6:59 PM**

Jim Neveu and Dave Murray of TransCanada, and Mike Toohill of BSC group attended the meeting in order to discuss repairs planned for Dam #4 on the Deerfield River. This is a dam safety issue caused by Tropical Storm Irene that has been filed with FERC, but postponed because it is not a high hazard dam. The work area is within the riverfront area with wetland areas (BVW) nearby. Neveu, Murray and Toohill brought up the need for improvements to the access road off Route 2 in order to reach the damaged rip-rap slope along the toe of the dam. This would involve some tree removal, removal of a large boulder, and temporary alterations. The project will not involve alterations to existing resources, only replacement of washed-out riprap. Mark Stinson mentioned the use of bioremediation: root wads or other natural materials. There followed a detailed discussion about permitting between Mark Stinson and the BSC representatives. There then followed a detailed discussion regarding fee categories for the NOI. D.J. Forbes made a motion to classify the project under category 4b. D.J. Forbes made a motion to continue discussion of the NOI at the next meeting. Neveu, Murray and Toohill stated that they would attend with the amended NOI.

Mark Stinson reported tree clearing in the riverfront area along the Deerfield River by Doug Dean at Mile Long Farm located along the Mohawk Trail. Mr. Dean attended the meeting in order to discuss the possibility that his activities are agricultural in nature and therefore exempt from the WPA. These activities include maple sugaring and associated clearing of other trees. There followed a lengthy discussion regarding interpretation of the Act. The Commission concluded that Mr. Dean should file for an RDA. Members of the Commission will make a site visit and review the regulations.

There followed discussion of possible violation of the WPA reported by Mark Stinson on Avery Brook Road.

The annual budget was discussed. D.J. Forbes made a motion to approve the budget, which was unanimously approved.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Mail was reviewed.

Tim Eichholz made a motion to adjourn, which was unanimously approved.

**Business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

D.J. Forbes

