

Minutes of the Conservation Commission Meeting
Town of Charlemont

May 6, 2015

Members Present: William Harker, Amy Chattin, Ruth Cannavo (Chair), Tim Eichholz (acting Secretary -- in absence of Doug Forbes)

Others Present : Amer Raza, Ted Willard, Douglas Dean, Glenn J. Boyd, Carlene Millett, Tim Stone

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by R. Cannavo (RC), a quorum being present. Motion made by RC to nominate William Harker (WH) as Co-Chair. Motion seconded by Tim Eichholz (TE). No discussion. Passed unanimously, 4-0.

Minutes of meeting of 4-26-15 read, approved and signed by those in attendance. TE noted that the regular meeting of 4-1-15 did not require minutes as there were no appointments and a quorum was not present.

7:01 PM Amer Raza of MA D.O.T. presented a plan for Rte. 2 highway re-surfacing for all areas, excepting the village. Roadway will be milled 2", and replaced.

TE asked Mr. Raza why the Commonwealth required an RDA for resurfacing, but not bridge work. Mr Raza explained that re-surfacing goes before the Board, but wetland crossings do not.

7:08 PM Motion made by WH for a Negative (2) Determination. Seconded by Amy Chattin (AC). Discussion: WH asked how long the project would be open for. Mr. Raza explained that it would be 3 years.

7:09 PM Motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Negative 2. Registered mail signed receipts from MA D.O.T. to ConComm and D.E.P. acknowledged by Board. Check presented for advertising, \$42.

7:28 PM Douglas Dean presented an RDA for work already completed in riverfront area along Rte. 2. Mr. Dean explained that a small area of invasive plant control and tree removal by property line is only work remaining.

7:40 PM Motion made by TE to make a negative determination (Neg. 2). Seconded by AC. Discussion: WH noted that the work was already

completed. AC noted it was agricultural use land. It was noted that thinning for a view is allowable.

7:42 PM Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

7:50 PM Ted Willard presented an RDA for work at 149 Legate Hill Road. Mr. Willard explained the brook flowing through his hay land is flooding the back of his field due to poor flow and sediment. RC noted that this was regular maintenance to cropland and an RDA for regular maintenance was on file -- 2008 (Negative 2).

8:00 PM Motion made by WH to table RDA until June 3 regular meeting, pending site visit by Board. Seconded by TE.

8:01 PM Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

8:03 PM Glenn Boyd presented an RDA for Bear Swamp Power to remove 22 trees from the picnic area off Zoar Road in order to ensure public safety and improve access. Site visit was conducted by WH and TE and photographs were presented.

8:23 PM Motion made by WH for a Negative (2) determination. Seconded by AC. No further discussion.

8:24 PM Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

8:30 PM Tim Stone requested information on feasibility of purchase. Advised by Board that the Board does not give advice on purchases and would not make a determination without a filed RDA.

8:50 PM Carlene Millett questioned logging on Maxwell Road. Board advised her that a cutting plan must be filed if volume thresholds are met, and this permit must be posted.

9:00 PM Mail was reviewed. Nothing pertinent found.

9:05 PM Other discussion items:

Rae property : no complaints, no problems. No further discussion. No action required.

Report/complaint of clearing along riverfront area off Rte. 2 west of Mohawk Park (M. Stinson). Site visit by TE. No evidence of significant

volume removed. Crown closure still near 100%. “Cleared” appearance possibly from removal of junk cars from junk yard. Unclear if any cutting in riverfront 200’. No action required.

9:15 PM Motion made by TE to remove internal policy requiring 2 members for site visits for building permit sign-offs. Seconded by RC. Discussion: TE explained that he proposed this years ago to prevent appearance of impropriety and prevent individual responsibility for mistakes. However, the town meeting article shrinking board size would make this impracticable. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

9:16 PM Carlene Millett presented a flow-chart for inspections. Board voiced approval. She asked if the Board would attend the Town meeting in support of the proposed by-law shrinking the board to 5 members. Board said they already voted approval of this at a special meeting. She asked who would leave the board and TE said his term expires, so this would be his last meeting.

9:17 PM Motion to adjourn by TE. Seconded by WH. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted
Tim Eichholz
Acting Secretary