

Charlemont Conservation Commission Minutes

September 7, 2021

Charlemont Town Hall

Members Present: Bill Harker, Thorne Palmer, Justin Maynard

Guests: Mike Vito, Paul Beaulieu, Kris van Naerssen, Erin Rodgers

6:01 p.m. meeting opened

Mike Vito represents the Deerfield river watershed chapter of Trout unlimited (TU).

Kris, Paul, Mike and Erin are submitting an NOI to enhance the brook trout habitat in Rice Brook. Woody debris placement is taking place by adding large wood. Bill has asked what happens if trees that are placed are impacted by storms and dislodge them to affect neighboring properties. Erin says there is no human development in the near area where this would affect these land uses. Says there is a 98% retention rate for the trees TU places. Mike states the area of operation is broken into 5 sections and one of these is left alone as a control to compare the other 4 sites. The trees are in close proximity to the stream and the goal is for 6-12 inch dbh trees. Methods derived from USFS technical manuals. Aiming for four large wood placements every 100 feet. Bill asked what trees are selected. Bank trees are not selected, diseased, damaged trees preferred off the bank but not too far to be prohibitively located. Bordering vegetated wetlands and stream banks are flagged.

Justin spoke with Mark Stinson today about tree replacements and said given the ecological restoration nature of the project it is up to the conservation commission to necessitate or pass on this action. Bill motions to close the public meeting. Thorne seconds. All in favor. Justin proposes to approve this NOI without further conditions on the order of conditions. Bill seconds, all in favor. Order of Conditions form 5 will be provided by ConCom as a signed document and submitted to the registry of deeds by TU with the standard order of conditions. 127-0061 dep file number. Received from Douglas Forbes letter of support as an abutter to this project.

Reviewed minutes from last meeting (8/3/2021): Bill motions to accept the minutes, Thorne seconds. All in favor.

Correspondence for 200 Avery Brook Road from James Hawkins. ConCom reviewed the FRCOG letter and determined that it is not a ConCom issue.

Mike Clendenin sent a letter to Bill Harker thanking for the site visit and ConCom will send a letter back finding all erosion control measures in place and satisfactory.

Bill and Thorne visited the National Grid pole replacement site and found there was an adequate way on and off the property and does not pose a negative environmental impact. Still waiting on correspondence from National Grid. Mark Stinson approved this project.

Schaffer way wetlands violations: The owner Todd Gerry has ceased the dumping activity. It has been brought to the ConCom's attention that there are potential buyers interested in the land who would like to pursue this. The conservation commission is prepared to allow the new buyers to determine the action they would like to take on this wetlands violation.

Added to the agenda: Certificate of compliance for Justin Maynard's stream bank restoration WPA8a form completed and submitted to ConCom.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.