

Charlemont Conservation Committee
June 9th, 2022 6:00 pm
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Justin Maynard, Bill Harker, Thorne Palmer, Erica Chenoweth

Others Participating: Star Atkeson secretary, Mike Vito and Kris van Naerssen of Trout Unlimited

Conservation Commission Chair Bill Harker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Action Items:

1. Review/approve minutes from 4/14/2022
 - **Bill Harker made a motion to accept minutes as read, Erica seconded the motion. All were in favor**
 - the minutes were signed

2. Conservation Commission Appointments up for renewal: (Thorne Palmer; Erica Chenoweth)
 - **Bill Harker made a motion seconded by Justin Maynard to sign the memo asking for the appointment of Erica Chenoweth and the reappointment of Thorne Palmer.**
 - The memo to The Select Board for the re-appointment of Thorne Palmer and appointment of Erica Chenoweth was reviewed and signed by Bill Harker and Justin Maynard.

3. Review Correspondence from Mass DEP
re: Intermittent Stream Restoration Plan, Bridge Replacement Project, Tower Road over the Chickley River
 - Board members reviewed the correspondence.

Appointments:

1. 6:15 P.M. Kris van Naerssen and Mike Vito, Board Members of Trout Unlimited LLC to discuss amending an Order of Conditions
 - Kris and Mike discussed their ongoing project doing restoration work on the Rice Brook which they will complete in 2022.
 - The project includes felling select trees into the stream to create pools for the trout and collecting data about the trout and stream to create a report. Vito is using Rice Brook as a pilot project, hoping to use the collected data to enable expansion to other streams as well as make the data available.
 - Rice Brook is a “stronghold” of cold water trout streams in Massachusetts. The Rice Brook is well suited to cold water trout because it has a massive ground water system, is well shaded, and is far from roads.

- They would like to include the 55 Potters Road Parcel (north of the current work area) in the scope of the project.
- **The board listened to the plans. Thorne made a motion to approve the amendment to The Order of Conditions, seconded by Bill, All in favor.**
- An Abutter's List was given to Kris van Naerssen of the abutters within 1000 feet of the 55 Potter's Road parcel.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Barbara Thompson's pond at 1431 Rte 2

- Bill Harker had visited the site of the pond and brought the matter to The Board. Barbara would like to clean the pond by taking out the weeds and putting them on the back of her land. The pond does not exceed 10,000 square feet. A permit is not necessary for ponds under 10,000 square feet.
- Bill will ask Barbara make her request in writing that she would like to clean a 20x40 foot section of the pond, and The Board will sign off on it.

2. ConComm sign-offs for broadband installation and one residential solar installation

- The board discussed the procedure for conservation commission sign-offs for requests for Broadband Installation from Whip City Fiber. Bill is handing over the sign-offs to the other board members to jumpstart the learning process, but will be available to visit sites and answer questions if need be.
- If there is a white flag at the site then underground pipes exist.
- Board members are encouraged to let secretary know starting point and end point to be reimbursed for mileage.

Bill Harker made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Erica Chenoweth, All were in favor.

The next meeting will be held July 7th, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Star Atkeson 6/10/2022

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Correspondence email from The DEP re: Intermittent Stream Restoration Plan, Bridge Replacement Project, Tower Road over Chickley River
- Email requests from Whip City Fiber for Conservation Committee sign off for Broadband and one solar installation
- Memo for Board of Selectmen for member Appointments dated June 12
- Written Request from Trout Unlimited for Order of Conditions Amendment
- Trout Unlimited original Notice of Intent dated 2019

