

**Charlemont Conservation Committee**  
**September 8, 2022 6:00 pm**  
**Via conference call and in person, Town Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Participating: Justin Maynard, Bill Harker, Thorne Palmer, Barbara Beall

Others Participating: Star Atkeson secretary, Jim Scalise

By phone: Erica Chenoweth

**Conservation Commission Chair Bill Harker called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.**

**Appointments:**

**6:00 Request for Determination of Applicability meeting with Jim Scalise of SK Design Group/  
Berkshire East**

- The Board inspected the site prior to the meeting.
- Jim Scalise went over the scenario that led to the RDA. A complaint was lodged after a tree blew down and crushed 12" culvert, it was replaced with a 24" plastic ADS culvert. They are proposing a restoration of the buffer Zone including using a wetland seed mix and planting trees. The area is stable and they would like to restore it further.
- Barbara requested that Berkshire East notify the Conservation Commission earlier if there is Conservation Commission business rather than apologizing after the fact. In the future she would like The Commission to be let known immediately.
- Jim acknowledged that they often come to the Conservation Commission too late.
- Thorne would like notification when they are done.
- **Justin Maynard made a motion seconded by Thorne palmer to accept the RDA as a negative determination (meaning the work can go forward.) All in favor.**

**Action Items:**

1. Review/approve minutes from 8/11/2022
  - The minutes were approved and signed.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Avery Brook Rd. as an example of site visit protocol.
  - At first the Conservation Commission was requested by the Building Department to sign off as part of a building permit, then when it was deemed in violation, that request was withdrawn.
  - The scheduling of the visit should have been done through Bill, the Chair.
  - The site visit done preceding this meeting at Berkshire East; B.Harker felt not so many of the commissioners should have gone. It should have been on the Agenda with the site

visit starting at 5:30. They asked questions and were careful not to deliberate. (*\*This issue was resolved, see Agenda for 10/13/2022 under "recognition," site visits are not considered meetings and are okay for a quorum of a board* )

**Correspondence:**

1. Forest Cutting Plan Review
  - The Department of Environmental Protection is in charge of the cutting plans. They are not under Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. The landowner submits and they are approved by The Department of Conservation and Recreation.
  - After October 15<sup>th</sup> Thorne will check on the Forest Cutting Plan at E. Oxbow.

**Documents reviewed in meeting:**

Agenda of 9/08/2022 Meeting

Minutes of 8/11/2022 Meeting

Copy of Letter from FRCOG dated Aug 10, 2022 to Justin Maynard re: zoning violation

Public Hearing Notice/ Berkshire East RDA

Forest Cutting Plan