

**Charlemont Conservation Committee**  
**January 12th, 2023 6:00 pm**  
**Via conference call and in person, Town Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

Members Participating via Conference Call: Justin Maynard

Others Participating: Star Atkeson, secretary

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Review Approve/Minutes from 12/08/2022

Minutes are approved and signed

**Thorne Palmer made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Barbara Beall, All in favor.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Joy Duperault's Training, takeaways and her follow-up email

- The Board's immediate takeaway is the acknowledgement from J. Duperault that the flood plain maps are poor quality and outdated, but updating will take place in the next year or two. Bill Harker foresees the updated maps bringing more restrictions and less buildable land to tax. He wanted to remind the Board that you are able to build on the wetland-- you can have barns, garages and buildings as long no water is displaced.
- J. Duperault had emailed following her training with information for the ConComm. In her email she included a copy of Charlemont's current floodplain bylaw which she said would need to be updated at some point, and the State's Floodplain bylaw model for reference. She also included a download of FEMA's Agricultural Structures policy guidance (08-20-20)
- Thorne said that Joy had mentioned that a Flood Plain manager would be town staff member and he is interested in the job.  
Justin said that Charlemont was not part of the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Programj)
- Bill delegated the reading to Barbara who then offered to be part of a bylaw subcommittee of the ConComm, but not to take it on as a single member.

**Bill Harker made a motion to start a Bylaw subcommittee of the ConComm (and to appoint Barbara Beall as Chair) to start the process of updating Charlemont's Flood Plain Bylaw, as well as looking into creating Charlemont's own Wetlands Bylaw. Seconded by Thorne. All in Favor.**

- Thorne Palmer and Justin Maynard would like to be members of the committee. Justin mentioned that MACC has a model for Wetlands bylaws on their website. Barbara found out that 2/3rds of Massachusetts Towns now have their own special Wetlands Bylaws because of Climate Change.

2. Town report

Secretary Star Atkeson read her draft of the town report which included the addition of the new members and trainings taken by members. Barbara suggested naming Trout Unlimited as the Entity who was doing the habitat enhancement and that Justin had completed the Certificate of training from MACC.

**Thorne Palmer made a motion to accept the Town report with Barbara's additions. Barbara Beall seconded the motion. All in favor.**

**OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Barbara brought up the multiple board meeting for regarding Brian Dupree to get some history on it.
  - Bill Harker went over the history with his takeaway being that the ConComm, back then, 3 yrs ago, including circuit rider Mark Stinson— got the process started with a DEP attorney. The attorney fell through for various reasons when it was time to enforce. Bill said the Board of Health or the Planning Board can charge them through the County.
  - Barbara Beall said she heard that BoH could get help from the County or FRCOG. Bill Harker said that a law was passed in order to “clean up the towns” and that through the Board of Health the Attorney General’s office would provide a state attorney to take violating parties to court.
  - There is a state mandate for updated bylaws that they layout the penalties and the methods of enforcement.
2. Barbara wonders if there is any interface with The Deerfield River Watershed Council. Bill says The ConComm’s jurisdiction is from the river’s edge.
  - Star remembered that the Planning Board mentioned someone from FRCOG, Jessica Atwood who did a great job of organizing all the river stakeholders together.
  - The Deerfield Watershed Council, Bill said they talk to them but don’t have meetings.

**Barbara Beall motioned to adjourn at 6:50, seconded by Bill Harker. All in favor.**

The next meeting will be held on February 9th, 2023.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Star Atkeson 02/06/2023

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of 01/12/2022 Meeting
- Minutes of 12/08/2022 Meeting
- FEMA Agricultural Guidance
- Charlemont’s Floodplain Bylaw
- Joy Duperaults email with links 12/12/2022
- Town Report Draft