

Charlemont Conservation Committee
March 9th, 2023 6:00 pm
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Thorne Palmer, Barbara Beall, Erica Chenoweth

Others Participating: Bill Harker, Star Atkeson, secretary.

Thorne called the meeting to order 6:03 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review Approve/Minutes from 2/09/2023.
 - **Barbara Beall made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Thorne Palmer, All in favor.**

Junkyard at 180 8A, what's been previously done. The Board discusses dealing with journalists inquiring about 180 8A. Erica Chenoweth recommended simply saying "I can't comment on that; also, to not speculate at all about the future." They will refer any journalist to Thorne, as acting Chair, and recommended he only communicate via email.

1. The violation is of Section 131 of Chapter 40. Land close to a river cannot be modified. The situation is, as well, a violation of the Bordering Vegetative Wetlands. Barbara asked Bill whether the enforcement order had lapsed and whether the ConComm would still have authority. Bill said that the attorney would answer that, and that ConComm may be in the background. The Board reviewed the last enforcement order from December 2018. 12 vehicles or equivalent in parts needed to be hauled away every month. The work was supposed to be completed by July 2019. The problem was that more junk cars were coming in than were being disposed of. The enforcement order "ran out" and the ConComm may have lost their rights as a ConComm to go back. Barbara would like to get legal advice to know how the ConComm should proceed and what role they should have. Bill believes that it will be under the Board of Health, Select Board and Planning Board's jurisdiction more so than ConComm.
2. Review Discuss letter for Justin Maynard
 - Thorne mentioned that Justin will step down from the ConComm as he has a lot going on. The ConComm will have another open position; Bill Harker will be back in 1 ½ months.
 - Erica read the letter she wrote for Justin as acknowledgement of the time he spent on the Board. The Secretary will put it on letterhead. A few dates need to be filled in.
Barbara Beall made a motion to accept the letter with a few revisions. Thorne Palmer seconded it. All in favor.

Other Discussion

- Barbara told of being given a scholarship to do MACC training which The Select Board had authorized to be paid for out of the Wetlands Protection Fund. She suggested that someone else take the \$150. and do training. There are also free lunchtime workshops.
- She also learned in her training that 200 towns in MA now have their own town wetland bylaws. It used to be that very few had their own. They can deal with the specifics pertinent to that town, storm water, wildlife etc., there is a little more delineation.
- Bill Harker recommended waiting for the new maps so that you don't remake decisions that have already been made. He said, "we don't have a problem now."
- Barbara told of new Wetlands Guidelines, which was a big deal at the MACC Conference. It was regarding Bordering Vegetative Wetlands replacement, and there will be training programs in the spring and summer. Barbara told of the course she had taken, she hadn't taken "enforcement", but it will be offered again. Also, in terms of getting information, they can submit questions to The MACC hotline. Erica is interested in the MACC courses.

Barbara Beall moved to adjourn the meeting 6:48, seconded by Thorne Palmer, all in favor.

RECOGNITION:

The next meeting will be held on April 13th, 2023.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Star Atkeson 04/04/2023.

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of 3/22/2023 Meeting
- Minutes of 2/09/2023 Meeting
- Letter from Erica for Justin Maynard.