

Charlemont Conservation Committee
June 13th, 2024 7:30 PM
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Thorne Palmer, Scott Randall, Clay Herbert

Others Participating: Star Atkeson (secretary,) Bill Harker, Amer Raza, Alain Peteroy

Thorne called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM

Appointments:

7:30 Amer Raza,

Mass DOT Request for Determination of Applicability, MM 36.6 roadway and box culvert repair.

- Amer Raza presented the RDA for the project and explained it to the Board.

Clay Herbert made a motion to approve a negative determination for the proposed work. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

The WPA Form 2 was filled out and signed.

7:34 Alain Peteroy

Director of Land Conservation, Franklin Land Trust, to speak about possibility of Town of Charlemont holding a Conservation Restriction on approximately 165 acres of privately owned forestland. Seeks non-binding letter of interest to submit to *US Forest Legacy Program* to fund purchase of Conservation Restriction.

- Alain Peteroy explained the program that Laurie Hicks is hoping to be a part of. It is a way to help farmers protect their land. It is federal money funneled through the DCR. The town Conservation Commission needs to hold the restriction for this particular program.
- The state will pay 75% of the appraised value.
- If the land is chosen, Franklin Land Trust will write up a memorandum of Understanding. That the Land Trust will do the monitoring and the yearly report. They will keep the relationship up with the landowner.
- Some farmland and house lots will be pulled out, they will not be part of the protected forest land.
- Knowing the land in question, Bill agreed that the forested area would not be suitable for development and it's not a likely spot for many extra buildable lots.
- It will be one year before the Trust knows whether the application was accepted and then another year to be finalized.

- If it is accepted the conservation restriction will be held by the Town of Charlemont acting through its conservation commission. The memo of understanding will be registered at the registry of deeds.

Scott Randall motioned to approve the signing of the letter stating a willingness to hold the conservation restriction. Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.

The letter provided by the Land Trust was signed by the Commission.

Action items:

1. Review / Approve Minutes from April 29, and May 16, 2024

Scott Randall motioned to accept the two sets of Minutes as written. Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. 180 8A car removal receipt review, site visit debrief.

Clay Herbert motioned to accept this month's car receipts. Dupree is doing a good job cleaning up. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

3. Bill Harker to join the Conservation Commission.

Clay Herbert moved to have Bill Harker join the Conservation Commission. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Correspondence:

The Board read the following Correspondence:

- Notification dated June 6, 2024 from massDOT re: gradation scour and gradation analysis at Route 8A, West Hawley Rd over the Deerfield River.
- 133 Warfield Rd Realty Chapter 61A, Section 14 Notice dated June 3, 2024

Clay Herbert moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- 180 8A car removal receipts "Turned in to Conservation Commission 6/13/2024"
- WPA Form 1 RDA from massDOT, 5/20/2024, for work on Route 2, MM 36.6
- Agenda June 13, 2024
- Minutes of April 29 and May 16, 2024