

Town of Conway

Conservation Commission

Minutes

Date: May 25, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Facilitator: Grace Larson

Location: Conducted remotely

In Attendance

Members: Bob Armstrong, Bob Nowak, Bruton Strange

Administrative Assistant: Lara De Lucca

Others in Attendance:

Russ Evans – South River Trust (69 Main St)

Matt Kelly – Epsilon Associates (overseeing Eversource project)

David Askew – Eversource

Meeting Called to order by Grace Larson at 7:33 pm

Minutes from 5/11/2021:

- Motion to approve by Grace, seconded by Bob N., approved 4-0-0.

Financial Matters –

- Check Received: \$62.50 (Russ Evans)

Motion to accept \$62.50 check by Grace, seconded by Bob A., approved 4-0-0.

BOH/Building Permits/Site Reviews

- **3299 Shelburne Falls Rd, Building shed – info incomplete as of 5/18/21**

Still need additional information, no site visit scheduled.

Forest Cutting Plans

- None

Mail/Announcements

- **Sandy Hill – 52 Main St – Foundation Repair**

Inquiry – Grace spoke to Roger and looked at site. Need to dig out and replace foundation. About 50 feet from slope of river. Grace will contact owner to discuss options and suggest they get the contractor to make a diagram to show how much room they need. Possible RDA rather than NOI.

Misc. Matters

- **NexAmp Solar Farm – update**

No site visit set up yet.

Public Hearings and Meetings

- **7:40 RDA – Russ Evans – 69 Main St – install new septic tank, remove old foundation and replace on original footprint (continued)**

Hearing opened 7:40

New foundation will be in the exact footprint of the old foundation. Acceptable under “destroyed by fire” exemption.

The new septic system is a separate issue. Per BOH, must be upgraded in order to get building permit. A larger septic system would not be covered by the exemption. Requires upgrade of the whole area, in a very sensitive area near the river. NOI is appropriate for the septic upgrade. Bill Harrington of DEP told Bruton that the decision is ConCom’s, based on local knowledge of the site and potential impact. Brian said a split decision is appropriate – the exemption for foundation, but not for building larger septic system.

Bruton moves that a split decision be made: the exemption for the foundation repair stands, but to not allow the septic system upgrade without an NOI. Second by Bob N. Approved 4-0-0.

Bruton will send information to Mr. Evans, and he can appeal the decision.

Grace moved to close hearing, seconded by Bruton. Approved 4-0-0.

Hearing closed 7:53

- **7:50 NOI – Eversource – replacement structures**

Hearing opened 7:53

Matt Kelly from Epsilon Associates and David Askew from Eversource present.

Mr. Kelly talked through the plan for proposed maintenance and construction activity, as well as proposed mitigation efforts (attachment C of NOI).

Eversource is also waiting for comments from Natural Heritage for several of the proposed work sites, before Order of Conditions can be issued. They expect to have this before the next meeting. Anticipated start date of August 1 or later. Eversource will supply a Storm Water Plan before starting work. Will notify ConCom before starting.

Grace moves to continue the meeting on June 8 at 7:30, when Natural Heritage comments are available. Bruton seconds. Approved 4-0-0.

Hearing closed 8:16

Scheduling and site visits

- Scheduling and site visits for next meeting were discussed.

Motion to adjourn by Grace, seconded by Bob A, approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Next Regular Meeting June 8, 2021, 7:00 in person at Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Rd