

Town of Conway

Conservation Commission

Minutes

Date: July 13, 2021

Time: 7:00pm

Facilitator: Grace Larson

Location: Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Rd

In Attendance

Members: Bob Armstrong (via phone), Bob Nowak, Bruton Strange

Administrative Assistant: Lara De Lucca

Others in Attendance:

Thomas Johnson, Proterra Design Group (Vertex project)

Francis Parisi, esq. (for Vertex) (via phone)

Elaine Rogers and Anthony Rice, 3209 Shelburne Falls Rd

Sebastian Meyer, 2142 Shelburne Falls Rd

John Heilman, JPH Building

Jake Orzechowski, JPH Building

Meeting Called to order by Grace Larson at 7:00 pm

Minutes from 6/22/2021:

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

Financial Matters –

- Checks Received: Elaine Rogers: \$72.50

Motion to accept check by Grace, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0.

- Various invoices: Recorder: \$187.50; MACC Dues: \$203.00

Grace moves to approve for payment, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0.

BOH/Building Permits/Site Reviews

- **26 Cemetery Hill Rd – Garage foundation – 7/13 – no plans indicated**

- **44 Whatley Rd, UCC Church Rebuild – need discussion & site review**

Applied for a building permit. Original plan was for demo, not building. NOI is still open because conditions not met. Bruton reminded them to submit plans properly. Will need a site visit once they do so.

Forest Cutting Plans

- None

Mail/Announcements

- None

Misc. Matters

- **Solar Farm Update**

Nexamp working on planting, in order to increase screening of site for abutters.

- **Habitat for Humanity – 638 S. Deerfield Rd – requested information on septic tank**

Inquired as to whether septic tank had RDA or anything outstanding. Russ Evans property. 2014 RDA was appealed by property owner and won. Land cleared, RDA closed. Nothing open at this point. Going forward they will need to be aware that the Mill River is across the street.

- **Lot on S. Shirkshire Rd – information on possible sale of property**

Inquiry from abutter, worried about a possible sale and what the purchaser might be planning for the property. Nothing ConCom can do at this point.

- **Conflict of Interest Certificates have expired – need to update**

These need to be updated every 2 years. All members should update theirs.

- **Discussed new ongoing project for Lara.**

Public Hearings and Meetings

- **7:10 NOI – Vertex Tower Assets – cell tower construction, 1384 S. Deerfield Rd – Continuation**

Thomas Johnson in person, Francis Parisi on phone

Hearing opened: 7:10

Grace and Bruton met with Mark S. to go over outstanding concerns.

- No evidence of old Order of Conditions on driveway with the registry. Bruton will follow up with the property owners.
- Written application addresses plan for coffer dams if stream is flowing during construction.
- Per Mark, swamp mats are considered permanent fill, even though they will be removed after bridge is installed, so restoration will be needed. OOC will specify need for at least two years of monitoring from environmental scientist.
- Mark agrees project meets criteria for limited project.
- Revised plans have replaced large storm water basin with a plunge pool, a basic outlet control structure. Will require less tree clearing, have less impact.

Bruton moves to close hearing and set a meeting to do OOC on August 10. Grace seconds. Passes 4-0-0.

Hearing closed: 7:42

- **7:30 RDA – Rogers/Rice – 661 S. Shirkshire Rd – potential lot purchase/house construction**

Hearing opened: 7:45

New plans have changed orientation of house, now 62 feet from stream. Will need to install silt fencing or hay bales at least 50 feet from stream. ConCom will need to sign off before construction started.

Grace moves to approve project with a negative 3 (work described is within the buffer zone but will not alter an area of protection), with condition of requesting silt fencing and/or hay bales at least 50 feet from stream. Bruton seconded. Passes 4-0-0.

Hearing closed: 7:55

- **7:40 RDA – Scudder – 124 Matthews Rd – Septic system installation – Continuation**

Hearing opened: 7:56

Designer not ready with design, he asked for continuation. Grace moves to continue to next meeting 7/27. Bruton seconds. Passes 4-0-0.

Hearing closed: 7:57

- **8:00 COC – JPH Building – 2142 S. Deerfield Rd**

Hearing opened: 8:00

Question about Certificate of Compliance. JPH has put down stump grindings to stabilize until natural vegetation takes over. Says new growth is coming up, and no breakouts after heavy rains.

Concern is OOC states erosion control must be left in place until ConCom gives the ok to remove. Must be stabilized. Grindings not enough. It's about plants with roots. Back doesn't look like it is ready for removal.

Will revisit in the spring after grass turns green, to see what has survived and come up again.

Landowner requests a site visit to determine if he can take the fence down in some places, as the driveway and sides may be ready.

Hearing closed: 8:28

Motion to adjourn by Grace, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned 8:34.

Next Regular Meeting July 27, 2021, 7:00 Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Rd