

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
APRIL 27, 2015  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Don Ward, Chairman  
Cheryl Blackburn  
James Collingwood, Sr.  
Peter Stiglin

Others Present: Jill Hughes, Clerk  
Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

Chairman Don Ward called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Anne Chase for property on Bow Wow Road, proposed project is construction of a single family home, private well, septic system, driveway and tree clearing. A portion of the proposed driveway will be constructed in the buffer zone of abutting bordering vegetated wetlands on property located to the west of Bow Wow Road. No proposed work in the Riverfront Area.** Matthew Puntin, engineer with SK Design was present for the applicant. A site visit was conducted earlier in the day. Mr. Puntin explained that the survey was done last year and the proposed work was 200-ft from the stream and out of the buffer zone, therefore they did not file with the Commission. This year it was brought to their attention that there is potential wetland across the street and were asked to complete an RDA. They have also filed with NHESP, but do not have a response from them at this time. A discussion ensued about the proposed work. Nellie Fink and Ed Flower who are abutters of the property were present at the meeting and handed out paperwork to the Commission and Mr. Puntin. They stated they are official observers of NHESP and are concerned about vernal pools and the wetlands in the area. They gave a brief presentation of their findings and a discussion ensued.

**D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to issue a Positive Determination #1 for Anne Chase. The motion passed 4-0.** A discussion ensued about the motion and the Commission reviewed the WPA 2-Determinaton of Applicability form.

**P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to amend the prior motion and issue a Positive Determination #3 for Anne Chase. The motion passed 4-0.**

**Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by the Town of Sheffield, proposed project: work will include resurfacing and guardrail replacement on various roads throughout town.** Highway Superintendent Ed Lord was present. Superintendent Lord explained that cold in place recycling would take place on Bow Wow Road, Silver Street and Rannapo Road. They would also replace guardrails that are in bad shape or missing on Berkshire School Road, County Road, Home Road and Sheffield Egremont Road. A discussion ensued about the proposed project.

**J. Collingwood, Sr. motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to issue a Negative Determination #2 for the Town of Sheffield. The motion passed 4-0.**

The Commission asked Superintendent Lord to notify them when they start the work and when it is finished.

**Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Seaboard Solar for property on Home Road for construction of (1) 1.4 MW solar arrays and (1) 1.46 MW solar array:** Michael Loin from Bertin Engineering was present. A site visit was conducted earlier in the day. As requested at their last meeting Bertin Engineering adjusted the wetland delineations in certain areas. Mr. Loin handed out a new set of revised site plans #3 dated 4/24/15, Stormwater Drainage Analysis revised 4/24/15, Hydric Soil Interpretations and an email dated 4/27/15 from the MassDEP Drinking Water Program. These documents were entered into the record. Mr. Loin stated that the Drinking Water Program had no issues and that they have a policy that allows solar arrays in a Zone 1 area. Mr. Loin went through the third party review document that Berkshire Engineering submitted and answered the questions/concerns from the last meeting and a discussion ensued. He also informed the Commission that they have submitted a plan to NHESP for the area in the far corner of the property where there will be a shallow detention basin. The rest of the property is not in a designated NHESP area.

Abutter Maggie Martin asked how many acres of trees were going to be cut. Mr. Loin responded that the total disturbed area within the fence line is 11.63 acres. There will be 15 acres of trees cut. On the outside of the fence area and in between the fence line they will cut the high trees and leave low growth. There will be no stumping and the area will revegetate naturally around the perimeter outside the fence line. The fence will be raised 6-inches off the ground to allow small animals go under it. The area will be seeded with a low growth grass special seed mixture that grows 8-inches in height and will be maintained yearly. There will be no chemicals used to clean the panels. Abutter Maggie Martin also asked about wildlife in the area. Mr. Loin explained that there will be corridors in between both of the arrays so that wildlife can get through.

Mr. Loin requested a continuation to May 27, 2015 to answer any further questions about the project and have a response from NHESP.

**P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from D. Ward to continue the public hearing to May 27, 2015 @ 7PM. The motion passed 3-0.** C. Blackburn did not vote on the motion, as she had stepped out of the meeting room for a moment.

**Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Kenneth Westlake for property on North Main Street for construction of a solar array:** The Commission received a written request from the applicant requesting a continuation to May 27, 2015.  
**D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to continue the public hearing to May 27, 2015 @ 7PM. The motion passed 4-0.**

**The Nature Conservancy-Enforcement Order issued on 6/27/2011:** Angela Sirois-Patel was present. Ms. Sirois-Patel handed out the Restoration Monitoring document regarding the Schenob Brook Preserve-Parcel 2 and the Bartholomew Tract to the Commission and a discussion ensued. The Nature Conservancy is requesting that the Enforcement Order be closed out, since all the activities and monitoring associated with the Order have been completed. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to**

write a letter to The Nature Conservancy releasing the Enforcement Order dated June 27, 2011 for Parcel 2 and the Bartholomew Tracts. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Sirois-Patel notified the Commission that The Nature Conservancy is planning on doing a large habitat management plan for the Schenob Brook area (2,000 acres of land in the resource area). A discussion ensued about what form needs to be filed with the Commission. Ms. Sirois-Patel will contact Mark Stinson at MassDEP about this.

**The Trustees of Reservations-Extension Permit for Order of Conditions:** The Commission received a letter from Julie Richburg requesting a three year extension on the Order of Conditions (dated May 10, 2007). The Order was extended to 5/10/13 by the Commission and then to 5/10/15 by the Permit Extension Act. A discussion ensued about the Permit Extension Act and the original order. D. Ward motioned, with a second from J. Collingwood, Sr. to grant the three year extension on the Order of Conditions. The Order will expire on May 10, 2018. The motion passed 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Commission reviewed draft minutes from their April 13, 2015 meeting. J. Collingwood, Sr. motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to approve the minutes of April 13, 2015 as written. The motion passed 4-0.

**Bills Pending:** The Commission reviewed and signed a bills payable.

**Review of Forest Cutting Plans:** There were no plans to review. Tom Ryan from the Department of Conservation and Recreation will be attending the next meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> for a discussion on forest cutting plans.

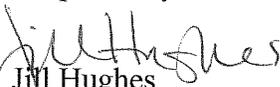
**Upcoming Conferences and Mail:** The Commission received a complaint for a residence on Berkshire School Road. D. Ward met with the owner earlier in the day to discuss the issue.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the Commission this evening, P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The following documents were reviewed during the Board's meeting and have been retained as required by the Massachusetts Public Retention Policy: Meeting Agenda, Sign in sheet, 4/13/15 Draft Meeting Minutes; NOI for Seaboard Solar along with revised site plans #3 dated 4/24/15, Stormwater Drainage Analysis revised 4/24/15, Hydric Soil Interpretations and an email dated 4/27/15 from the MassDEP Drinking Water Program; RDA for Chase; RDA for Town of Sheffield; The Nature Conservancy Restoration Monitoring document; Request from Trustees of Reservation.

Respectively submitted by:

  
Jill Hughes  
Recording Secretary