

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 11, 2019
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Donald Ward, III, Chairman
Theodore Pitman
Cheryl Blackburn
Martin Mitsoff

Commission Members Not Present: Arthur Batacchi, Jr

Others Present: Renee LeClair, Recording Secretary
Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

Chairman Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion and possible action / Visit from Jim Kelly regarding agricultural maintenance for property on South Main Street: Jim Kelly he stated that he spoke with Natural Heritage and they both came to the conclusion that they will need to step back the field edge near the Housatonic River. Jim explained that he has completed the Mesa filing for the project. Jim has also hired a surveyor to draw a line based on the habitat maps. A discussion ensued. Jim stated that he has submitted an RDA regarding this project. Chairman Ward said that the RDA will be on the Commissions next meeting agenda.

Discussion of Forest Cutting Plans / Visit from Thomas Ryan Service Forester for the Department of Conservation & Recreation: Chairman Ward thanked Thomas Ryan for his attendance this evening. Thomas began by explaining when a forest cutting plan is required and when one is not, he gave some scenarios as examples. Thomas also went through the life of a forest cutting plan and answered questions from the Commission. A discussion ensued. Thomas Ryan thanked the Commission for their communication and asked that communication continue. Thomas asked that the Commission be on the lookout for the orange forestry signs. He said that they tend to go missing either by animals and nature. Thomas explained the changes over time in the industry and requirements. A discussion ensued. Chairman Ward thanked both Jim and Thomas for their time.

Ben Naylor Berkshire engineering/ Ligas Enforcement Order 1448 South Undermountain Rd: Chairman Ward stated that he received a call today from Michael Kulig of Berkshire Engineering asking for an extension. They could not attend tonight's meeting. Chairman Ward stated this agenda item will be on the March 11, 2019 meeting agenda.

Discussion and possible action / Dry Hydrants: Chairman Ward asked that M. Mitsoff lead the discussion on the dry hydrants. M. Mitsoff shared that Mark Stinson Circuit Rider for MassDEP met with the Commission, Fire Chief Getchell and Police Chief Munson. They all visited three dry hydrant locations today. Mark reviewed with the Commission the options for repairing or replacing the damaged hydrants. M. Mitsoff explained that Mark suggested the Fire Department file one NOI listing all of the hydrants

to start a maintenance plan. M. Mitsoff also shared that the residents of Sheffield would benefit on their home owners insurance should the repairs be made and a maintenance plan be put in place. The Town would be considered lower fire safety risk with insurance companies for everyone in Town. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff stated he will ask the Fire Department to begin work on submitting the NOI.

Discussion on Disclosure letter from Stockman Associates LLC for a peer review involving Berkshire Engineering: Emily Stockman has been in communication with Chairman Ward about the requested peer review for the Ligas property. Chairman Ward read a letter from Emily Stockman and asked the Commission if they were comfortable with hiring Emily to be the wetland consultant for the Ligas property. M. Mitsoff suggested that we ask Emily if she is being compensated by Berkshire Engineering for any project. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff disclosed that he had contacted Emily in January prior to any discussion on appointing her with consultant to the Ligas property. M. Mitsoff may potentially hire her for her services. A discussion ensued. Chairman Ward asked the clerk to contact Emily via email to get answers to those questions.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed draft minutes from January 14, 2019. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from M. Mitsoff to approve the January 14, 2019 minutes as written. The motion passed 4-0.**

Upcoming Conferences and Mail: Chairman Ward reviewed a pamphlet that the clerk provided to the Commission. Chairman Ward explained to the Commission that he and the clerk had discussed looking for easy ways to share information with the public. Chairman Ward asked that the Commission share anything at any time that may be beneficial.

M. Mitsoff told the members that he would drive to the MACC Conference March 2, 2019 if anyone wanted to come with him. C. Blackburn and T. Pitman stated they would be going to the conference with M. Mitsoff.

Chairman Ward mentioned a seminar on River and Streams taking place at Dewey Hall on the 23rd of February at 2pm.

Chairman Ward mentioned that he noticed that the railroad tracks are being renovated and may want to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Public Comment: No public to comment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

The following documents were reviewed during the Commission's meeting and have been retained as required by the Massachusetts Public Retention Policy: Meeting agenda, Sign In Sheet, 1/14/2019 meeting minutes, pamphlet submitted by clerk.

Respectfully submitted by



Renée LeClair
Recording Secretary

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: February 11, 2019

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. Tom BRYAN DCR Monterey
2. Jan Kelly County Rd., Sheffield
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