

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

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

**Request for Determination of Applicability from Jim Kelly regarding agricultural maintenance for property on South Main Street to clear strip of trees and convert the area to open field in addition to installing stone or concrete headwalls and tailwalls around old culvert to stop erosion.** Jim Kelly presented his clients, Louis Aragi, Jr. request showing maps of the area and explained that the wetland delineation was performed by Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates. A letter from MESA was presented and Mr. Kelly stated they will be staying out of the priority habitat zone. Mr. Kelly also reviewed the maintenance plan for the culverts with the Commission; the culvert itself will not be changed. A discussion ensued. **M.Mitsoff motioned, with a second from T.Pitman to approve the ten foot buffer on the south side of the ditch which is on the north side of the subject property and that maintenance work be allowed on the existing culvert that is in place with a Negative Determination for the forestry work # 3 with the following conditions:**

- 1. That this area is currently in wooded buffer zone along an existing drainage ditch as indicated with an additional exempt activity noted in #5 and with a condition:**
- 2. That culvert maintenance be performed for the prevention and control of erosion at the ends of the culvert.**

**The motion passed 5-0.**

**Request for Determination of Applicability from Angela Sirois-Pitel, The Nature Conservancy to continue management activities to improve and/or maintain wetlands, early successional and forested habitat in the work areas for common and rare species. Specific objectives and detailed work plans can be found in the 2019 Schenob Brook Habitat Management Plan:** Rene Wendell, representing the Nature Conservancy explained to the Commission that he is looking for a Negative Determination under option #2 for their request. They are requesting to continue retreatment of the same areas and will be increasing the scope by adding some invasive species and cut stump treatment. He shared his maps with the Commission and named a few of the invasive that are present, chocolate vine and buckthorn. A discussion ensued **T.Pitman motioned, with a second from M. Mitsoff issued a Negative Determination #2 the work described in the request is within an area subject to protection under the act, but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area. Therefore said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent. The motion passed 5-0.**

**Ben Naylor Berkshire engineering/ Ligas Enforcement Order 1448 South**

**Undermountain Rd:** Ben Naylor stated that Berkshire Engineering doesn't have any new information to present to the Commission as most of his work is dependent on the peer review by Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates. Emily Stockman stated that she, Ben, and a few Commission members were at the site this afternoon. At the site visit Emily did ascertain the appropriate next step will be for her and Ben to meet out on the site again once weather conditions have improved to do some future exploration of the delineated boundaries. Emily explained that her protocol for a peer review is to start with mapping where the jurisdictional boundaries are so that the Commission knows where their authority is. A discussion ensued. Emily's recommendation is for her and Ben to keep open communication in the field with the permission of the owners and Commission. A discussion ensued. Emily explained that she will be here to help the Commission stay on task with their authority but also very important to be mindful of the other authorities that will need to weigh in. Whatever the Commission ultimately approves will need to include with conditions like "and must follow." A discussion ensued. Emily asked the Commission to look back in their records for a Notice of Intent that was filed by the previous owners to see what was already done and approved. A discussion ensued. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi to continue this matter to April 8, 2019 meeting. The motion passed 5-0.**

**Order of Conditions for Fawn Lake:** Chairman Ward reviewed the history the Commission has had with the management of Fawn Lake. The commission asked that the clerk contact Solitude Lake Management for a list of chemicals they plan on using for the lake. M. Mitsoff is particularly interested to know if a glyphosate based chemical will be used. A discussion ensued. **M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to continue this matter to April 8, 2019 meeting. The motion passed 5-0.**

**Approval of Minutes:** The Commission reviewed draft minutes from February 11, 2019. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to approve the February 11, 2019 minutes as written. The motion passed 4-0. A. Batacchi abstained from the vote.**

M. Mitsoff left the room at 8:08pm

C. Blackburn asked the Commission if it would be possible if for all future site visits the members meet at Town Hall and drive together to the site visit. A discussion ensued. The Commission agreed that they would meet in the Town Hall parking lot going forward before all site visits at 4:45pm.

**Upcoming Conferences and Mail:** T. Pitman and C. Blackburn discussed their recent attendance of the Conservation Conference that Mitsoff also attended. A discussion ensued. T. Pitman asked that the clerk to contact Mark Stinson to obtain the Solar Array overheads from his recent meeting on the subject.

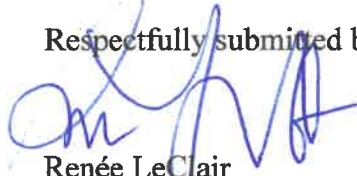
**Public Inquiries:** No public to comment.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 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, 2/11/2019 meeting minutes, Request for renewal of Order of Conditions for Fawn Lake, RDA from Jim Kelly regarding agricultural maintenance for property on South Main Street, RDA from Angela Sirois-Pitel, The Nature Conservancy.

Respectfully submitted by



Renée LeClair  
Recording Secretary

## Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: March 11, 2019

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. Emily STOCKMAN STOCKMAN ASSOCIATES
2. Jim KELCEX
3. Rene Wendell The Nature Conservancy
4. Benjamin Naylor Berkshire Engineering
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