

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JUNE 10, 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 7:08 p.m.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Butternut Tree and Land Care Inc. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information regarding the proposed project: Removal of trees and brush for solar gain after installation of roof mounted solar system. Chairman Ward explained that he visited the site a few weeks ago and gave a detailed description of the area. Nellie Wilson owner of Butternut Tree Land Care Inc. and the applicant's representative, explained the process she will be using to remove the two trees, an oak and the shag bark hickory. A discussion ensued. T. Pitman commented that the project is straight forward. *T. Pitman motioned, with a second from M. Mitsoff to issue a negative determination as 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 4-0.*

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent Application, filed by Mr. Douglas & Honor Blume. The proposed project consists of using a machine (Eco Harvester) to pull and skim weeds in Mill Pond. The purpose is to extract invasive weed species and in so doing improve the quality of the pond. Chairman Ward began by explaining that the Conservation Commissions records and informational materials are available for the public at any time and to contact the Commissions' clerk Renee LeClair for assistance if needed. The applicant, Mr. Douglas Blume was invited to speak by Chairman Ward. Mr. Blume shared photos of the pond, specifically of the beach areas as requested by the DEP circuit rider Mark Stinson. Mr. Blume explained that he is looking for new and improved way of taking care of the pond. He said that the Eco Harvester will be the first mechanical harvester in Berkshire County. Additionally, he has been contacted by the Jane Winn from the Berkshire Environmental Action Team who is very excited about the Eco Harvesters potential. Mr. Blume reviewed details about how the harvester works and shared all the benefits of using a mechanical harvester. His hope is to stay away from chemical treatments and leave a healthy pond for the next generation to enjoy. A discussion ensued. Mr. Blume stated that the lilies are also taking over the pond and that the harvester will pull those up with the milfoil. A discussion ensued. Chairman Ward asked for Mr. Blume to review the questions posed by Mark Stinson with the Commission. A discussion ensued. Mr. Blume stated that he and the neighbors abutting the pond will be meeting this weekend to hopefully come to an agreement. A discussion

ensued. Chairman Ward suggested to the Commission that the hearing be continued to the next meeting in order to allow the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to weigh in and give the abutters time to educate themselves so they may ask any additional questions at the next meeting. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff stated that an integrated treatment approach of the pond will be conceivably more effective at eradicating more invasive growth and for the neighbors of the pond remember that everyone's objectives are the same. Chairman Ward said at this time the Commission is in favor of Mr. Blume's concept and he hopes everyone can stay open minded and continue to communicate. A discussion ensued. Chairman Ward asked that the clerk contact Mark Stinson DEP Circuit rider regarding drawdown regulations for Mr. Blume. **C. Blackburn motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to continue the public hearing to the next meeting on June 24, 2019 at 7pm. The motion passed 4-0.**

Discussion and possible action on a letter from the Select Board to the Commission regarding stone work at the covered bridge. Chairman Ward read the memo from the Town Administrator asking for permission to rectify an issue brought to her attention from the Commission on Disabilities. The issue is access to the covered bridge via wheelchair. Chairman Ward asked that the clerk format a letter from the Commission and send it to the Select Board in response to the request. The letter should state that a Request for Determination of Applicability will not be necessary for this work however the Commission asks that the gravel used be clean i.e. free of oil or any other chemicals and be big enough not to pass through the gap or the bridge into the water. Additionally, they asked that after the work is done that the equipment respects the ecological nature of the site. Chairman Ward asked that the clerk email the letter to Commission after completed for review.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: No forest cutting plans to review.

Chairman Ward reviewed email correspondence from Jim Panichella and Emily Stockman regarding an open enforcement order on 992 Foley Rd. Jim has requested a certificate of compliance from the Commission. Emily has instructed the commission that a site visit is needed to ensure that the area is compliance. Site visit is scheduled for 5pm before the next meeting on June 24, 2019.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed the minutes from April 22, 2019 and decided to postpone approving the minutes from May 20, 2019. **M. Mitsoff motioned with a second from T. Pitman to accept the April 22, 2019 minutes as written. The motion passed 4-0.**

Upcoming Conferences and Mail: Chairman Ward and the Commission reviewed the mail.

The Commission reviewed the following:

Letter sent to Aragi on May 23, 2019 regarding work done at covered bridge.

Letter sent to Selectman on May 23, 2019 regarding work done at covered bridge.

Memo dated June 5, 2019 from Jill Hughes, Assistant to the Town Administrator regarding postage expense for FY2019.

MACC letter request for donation

Berkshire Land Keepers letter request for donation.

Mass Audubon summer camp flyer regarding upcoming event dates.

Public Inquiries: No public inquires.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 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, Letter sent to Aragi on May 23, 2019 regarding work done at covered bridge. Letter sent to Selectman on May 23, 2019 regarding work done at covered bridge. Memo dated June 5, 2019 from Jill Hughes, Assistant to the Town Administrator regarding postage expense for FY2019. MACC request for donations, Berkshire Land Keepers request for donation, Mass Audubon summer camp flyer.

Respectfully submitted

Renee LeClair



Conservation Meeting

June 10, 2019

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