

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
JULY 22, 2019  
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Arthur Batacchi, Jr  
Theodore Pitman, Chairman  
Martin Mitsoff

Commission Members Not Present: Donald Ward, III, Vice Chairman  
Cheryl Blackburn

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

Chairman Pitman called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

**Continued Public Hearing: Notice of Intent Application, filed by 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. M. Mitsoff motioned with a second from to re open the public hearing. The motion passed 3-0.** Doug asked about the species mentioned in an email by Misty-Anne Marold the Senior Endangered Species Review Biologist at the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. M. Mitsoff read email correspondence from Misty-Anne Marold. Misty-Anne Marold stated that there is a state listed species located in Mill Pond's northern end is mapped as Priority and Estimated Habitat and should the applicant wish to get the specific name of the species, they would need to file for an information request. A discussion ensued. The Commission asked the clerk to file the paperwork to obtain the information on this protected species so they and the applicant would both be aware. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff shared the certified mailing cards that the Blume's provided today with the Commission and stated that all of the abutters have been notified as required by the applicant and are well informed at this point as most have been attending these meetings. A discussion ensued. **Chairman Pitman motioned with a second from M. Mitsoff to close the public hearing. The motion passed 3-0.** **M. Mitsoff motioned with a second from A. Batacchi Jr to approve the Blume's Notice of Intent regarding the ecological restoration limited project with the following conditions: That dumping of the aquatic organic material will take place on Judy Schnurrs property at least 200 ft. from the pond area and will be conveyed by their tractor. The harvester will not operate within 50ft of the lower dam located at the southern end of the pond. Operation of the harvester will take place only between dawn and dusk.** A discussion ensued. Chairman Pitman asked that the Blume's give a courtesy email or call to the Mill Pond Association a day before the Blume's intend to be operating the Eco harvester. The Blume's agreed to send an email to Sarah Williams a member of the Association. Doug asked the Commission for clarification on the length of time the notice is good for. Chairman Pitman explained that the Notice of Intent is good for three years, at which time the Blume's will be required to come before the Commission again.

**Discussion regarding buffer zone and required setbacks for 700 S Main St.** Chairman Pitman welcomed the potential owners of the old Sunrise Diner at 700 S Main Street. A discussion ensued. The Commission asked the potential owners to file a Request for Determination of Applicability.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The Commission reviewed the minutes from July 8, 2019. **M. Mitsoff motioned with a second from A. Batacchi Jr. to table the July 8, 2019 minutes. The motion passed 3-0**

**Upcoming Conferences and Mail:** Chairman Pitman reviewed email correspondence from Emily Stockman regarding the questions that the Commission had regarding the open enforcement order at 992 Foley Road. A discussion ensued. **Chairman Pitman motioned with a second from M. Mitsoff to release the enforcement order on 992 Foley Road. The motion passed 3-0** Chairman Pitman asked the clerk to write a letter to Mr. Panichella releasing him from the enforcement order.


**Public Inquiries:** A concerned citizen explained to the Commission that she has been fighting a losing battle with an invasive species called Japanese knotweed on her property. She explained that the knotweed spreads like wild fire and it also causes erosion of the river bank. She is currently working on an article for the Sheffield times to inform the residents of this growing problem. A discussion ensued. Chairman Pitman explained that she should get a licensed applicator who specializes in these invasive plants for her property. She explained that her primary concern for coming to the meeting this evening was to mention that the Japanese knotweed has actually jumped to the opposite side of Miller Avenue. She has noticed that the Sheffield Highway Department has been cutting it back which causes the knotweed to spread further. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff suggested that she contact the Housatonic Valley Association and or B.E.A.T. the Berkshire Environmental Action Team.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the Commission this evening. **M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi Jr. to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 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, Email Correspondence from Emily Stockman

Respectfully submitted,



Renée LeClair  
Commission Clerk

## Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: July 22, 2019

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. William Stanton Summer St, Lee
2. Maura Stanton Summer St, Lee
3. Sandra Preston County Rd. Sheffield
4. Sherry Graybeal 36 Bow Wow Sheffield
5. Marc Bretter <sup>soon Bow Wow Sheffield</sup>  
P.11 Drive, Becket
6. JOHN C. GILLIGAN 5 BAY LANE, SHEFFIELD
7. Robert Cohen County Rd, Sheffield
8. DOUGLAS HONER + MEGAN LOOK RD, SHEFFIELD
9. Robin Kriesberg 322 Bow Wow Rd
10. Sarah Williams 340 Bow Wow
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