

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Theodore Pitman, Chairman
Donald Ward, III, Vice Chairman
Arthur Batacchi, Jr
Cheryl Blackburn
Martin Mitsoff

Others Present: Renee LeClair, Conservation Commission Clerk
Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

Chairman Pitman called the meeting to Order at 7:08 p.m.

Request for Determination of Applicability: filed by White Engineering Inc. for property on Rannapo Rd, Sheffield, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, sec. 40. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information regarding the proposed project: Construction of a garage on north side of house. Garage will be constructed greater than 50 ft. from the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Driveway surface will be gravel. Silt fence will serve as the limit of work area and tree removal. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi, Jr to continue this hearing until the September 23, 2019 meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability: filed by Jeffery Collingwood, PE for property on 460 S Main St, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, sec. 40. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information regarding the proposed project, a lawn and driveway surface regrade with new yard drain(s) and infiltration system within WPA buffer zone of intermittent stream. Chairman Pitman stated that the Commission visited the site prior to tonight's meeting. Jeffery Collingwood explained the site to the members that could not visit the site. The fence line is the extent of the work and there will be new landscaping taking place. A discussion ensued. Chairman Pitman stated his concern is that there is an adequate erosion control near the fence. A discussion ensued. D.Ward motioned, with a second from M. Mitsoff with the erosion control in place on the inside of the fence we issue a negative determination. The motion passed 5-0.

Update on invasive plant control for Howden Farm, on Rannapo Road: Jim Kelley explained that Bruce Howden has applied for additional invasive control measures and Jim will be doing that work. Jim explained he came here this evening to inform the Commission about this work and that this is a natural farming/agricultural activity so he was not sure if a request for determination of applicability would be required. A discussion ensued. D. Ward asked that Jim wait until he has the letter from National Heritage before starting the work. Jim Kelley said that he would bring a copy of the letter to the Commission prior to starting work with a map and list pesticides that he will be using.

Follow up discussion regarding definition of a stream on Undermountain Road: M. Mitsoff explained that as a follow up to the conversation the Commission had with a resident under public comment at the last meeting regarding a stream on their property, he has reached out to Mark Stinson, Circuit Rider at the DEP for more information. A discussion ensued. Chairman Pitman stated that he would ask the resident to hire a wetland biologist to access whether the stream in question is perennial or intermittent. Chairman Pitman asked that the wetland biologist be qualified to analyze soil samples. A discussion ensued. At this time no one from the Commission has been approached by the resident to make this determination.

Discussion on visit in October 2019 from Nancy Putnam, ACEC: Chairman Pitman explained who Nancy Putnam is and why he would like her to come and speak with the Commission. A discussion ensued. The Commission asked that the clerk contact Nancy Putnam and schedule this meeting for Friday, October 18, 2019 between 6pm and 8pm in the second floor meeting room. The Commission also decided to include surrounding Conservation Commissions in this visit along with Rene Wendell, Mark Stinson, and Emily Stockman. The topics they hope Nancy may discuss are as follows; what is ACEC's impact on our work as a Commission? Are jurisdictions applied and how do we administer them? Offer a framework or a checklist to the Commission to help residents? Finally, the Commission would like to discuss Schnob Brook and Scenic Mountain Act.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes from August 26, 2019. **D. Ward motioned with a second from T. Pitman to accept the August 26, 2019 minutes as written.**

Upcoming Conferences and Mail: M. Mitsoff stated that he will be attending the MACC Conference on October 19, 2019 if anyone needs a ride he will drive. Lake Management with Multiple Threats and Limited Resources will meet on October 5, 2019 at Zion Lutheran Church at 74 First St. Pittsfield. September 18, 2019 at 6pm is a seminar at the Senior Center for all Town employees for a refresher on Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest, and additional Ethics Training.

Public Inquiries: No public comment.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Commission this evening. **C. Blackburn motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi Jr. to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 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, Meeting Minutes, Request for Determination of Applicability for Rannapo Rd and 460 S Main St.

Respectfully submitted,


Renée LeClair
Conservation Commission Clerk

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: September 9, 2019

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. Jeff Cunningham
2. John Kelly County Rd. Sheffield
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