

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

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

Commission Members Not Present: Cheryl Blackburn

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

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

Chairman Pitman made adjustments to the order of the agenda.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Appalachian Trail Conservancy for property on Appalachian Trail west of Sheffield Egremont 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: Restoration pruning of woody plants in approximately three acres of shrub swamp area surrounding the Appalachian Trail. Chairman Pitman opened the public hearing. M. Mitsoff stated that he and Chairman Pitman met Jim Pelletier from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy at the project site before the meeting.

D. Ward entered the room at 7:12 p.m.

Jim Pelletier gave a summary of the project. The project will give two endangered plant species the ability to thrive. He added that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy has previously submitted requests and has done this same work about five years ago. A. Batacchi asked how far they are planning on cutting. Jim referenced the submitted paperwork. **M. Mitsoff motioned with a second from D. Ward to issue a negative determination for this project. The motion passed 4-0.**

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability, 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 60 ft. from the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Garage will be 26' x 22' in size. During construction, erosion control silt fence will be installed 15ft of the excavation limits, between the excavation and the wetland. At the completion of work all disturbed soils will be seeded and mulched. Driveway surface will be gravel. Silt fence will serve as the limit of work area and tree removal. Chairman Pitman opened the hearing and asked if anyone is present for this submission.

There was no one present regarding this request. A discussion ensued regarding scheduling a site visit. The clerk was instructed to reach out to the applicants to set up another site visit. **M. Mitsoff motioned with a second from D. Ward to continue the hearing to their next meeting on February 10, 2020. The applicant should have the area prepared with stakes for their site visit. The motion passed 4-0.**

Continued Public Hearing: Notice of Intent Application, filed by SWCA Environmental Consultants for property on Bow Wow Road / Mill Pond, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, sec. 40. The proposed project is being filed in order to renew a permit for the continued maintenance of Mill Pond, this maintenance includes invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation management to improve the ecological health of the pond. Sarah Williams spoke on behalf of the applicant's, The Mill Pond Association. Sarah asked that the Commission to continue the hearing until February 10, 2020 meeting. The Association has received questions from Natural Heritage which have been answered by SWCA. However, Natural Heritage is still processing those answers and will send the Association a letter once they are completed. Once received, this will give the Commission the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the project.

Chairman Pitman stated that he has received a letter from an attorney this evening regarding the pond.

A discussion ensued regarding a possible site visit. A site visit was scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. The Commission will meet at Sarah William's residence for this site visit. **Chairman Pitman motioned with a second from A. Batacchi, Jr. to continue the public hearing to the February 10, 2020 meeting to allow time for Natural Heritage to respond to the Association and to allow Town Counsel time to review the recently submitted letter by the Blume's attorney. The motion passed 4-0.**

A. Batacchi, Jr. commented on other bodies of water in Berkshire County that are going through the same thing. A discussion ensued.

John Gillian commented that we all have a common goal.

290 Bow Wow Road: There were no interested parties regarding this topic in the audience. A discussion ensued regarding the project. Chairman Pitman stated that he did go to look at the property, there is a septic repair needed. A discussion ensued regarding a site visit. It was decided that the Commission would request that the owner complete a Request for Determination of Applicability for the septic repairs.

272 Clayton Road: Alana Chain introduced herself as the project manager for Atlus Power working on the solar project on Clayton Road. Alana explained that a request was submitted for sign off to obtain a building permit from the applicant through the Towns permitting software. A discussion ensued regarding the solar project located on Clayton Road.

Alana will send the Commission a copy of the wetland delineation that was completed prior to the Commission visiting the site. It was decided that the Commission will meet with Alana and Kirt Mayland the Engineer for the project, on Saturday, January 20, 2020 at the projects site at 10:00 a.m. and this will be listed on the February 10, 2020 meeting agenda. D. Ward asked that Alana stop all work until they can visit the site. A discussion ensued.

M. Mitsoff stated that he will be doing some background work with regard to the Planning Board deliberations and discuss with the building inspector. A discussion ensued regarding the submitted plans. Alana stated that when she spoke with the building inspector and he considered the sign off request a non-issue.

Discussion and possible action regarding Enforcement Order for property at 1448 South Undermountain Road: M. Mistoff gave a summary of the recent email correspondence with the Commissions contracted wetland scientist, Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff stated that he would reach out to Emily to clarify if they can be of assistance to her. Then the Commission should reach out to Misty Anne from Natural Heritage to ensure that she is apprised of the situation.

D. Ward stated for the record that he has noticed that there are outside lights on all the time at this property. D. Ward said that the Commission should discuss this at their scheduled working meeting for the Scenic Mountain Act.

Annual FY20 Budget Review and Approval: The Commission reviewed and discussed their budget. *A. Batacchi, Jr. motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to keep their FY2021 budget the same as last year at \$2,480.00. The motion passed 4-0.*

A discussion ensued regarding the Notice of Intent Fund. M. Mitsoff said that he will look into the status of the "NOI Fund."

Sari Hoy asked if the Conservation Commissions would consider creating a fund or applying to grants in order to enhance Town land, specifically the Town Park. A discussion ensued.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: The Commission reviewed and discussed Forest Cutting Plans for Larkin - County Road and Webb – Salisbury Road and Root Lane.

Sarah Williams asked if the Commission will go out to look at these submitted plan sites to ensure that they are following the plan. D. Ward responded that typically a site visit is not required unless there is a concern brought to them. A discussion ensued.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes from December 9, 2019. *A. Batacchi Jr. motioned with a second from D. Ward to accept the December 9, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion passed 4-0.*

Commission Member Items: A. Batacchi Jr. suggested that the Commission send a letter to a property on Lime Kiln Road regarding the cleanup of the sand piles. D. Ward mentioned that the piles are in flood plain. A discussion ensued regarding the Notice of Intent that was submitted for that property. A discussion ensued.

The clerk was asked to contact the Town Clerk in order to provide the documents to A. Batacchi Jr. to review.

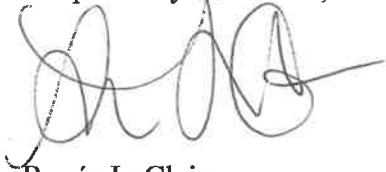
The clerk asked the Commission about a Request for Certificate of Compliance submitted for 394 Berkshire School Road. D. Ward suggested that the Commission add this to the next meeting agenda so that they can make a site visit. A discussion ensued. The clerk was asked to set up the site visit for the next meeting

M. Mitsoff suggested that the Commission schedule a working meeting for the Scenic Mountain Act. A discussion ensued. It was decided that the Commission would meet at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2020. The clerk stated that she would resend the work M. Mitsoff has done to the Commission so that they may make comment. A discussion ensued. The clerk mentioned that if any member ever wants a printed copy of something they just need to ask for it and she will have it available for them.

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

Chairman Pitman adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Renée LeClair
Conservation Commission Clerk

Documents reviewed at the meeting:

Draft 12/9/2019 meeting minutes

Request for Determination of Applicability, for property on Appalachian Trail west of Sheffield Egremont Rd

Request for Determination of Applicability, for property on Rannapo Rd, Sheffield

Notice of Intent Application, for property on Bow Wow Road / Mill Pond

Email Correspondence from Emily Stockman

Forest Cutting Plan for Larkin property on County Road and

Forest Cutting Plan for Webb property on Salisbury Road and Root Lane.

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: January 13, 2020

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. Brian & Alice Oviatt
2. Konrad & Regina King Cook Rd
3. Jim Pelletier Mass A Committee
4. Alana Charin <sup>(Partic Avenue Solar
Greenwich, CT)</sup> Clayton Rd. Sheffield
5. Sarah Williams 340 Bow Wow
6. JOHN GILLIGAN 5 BAY LAKE
7. DOUBLES + HONOR BLUM 124 LOOK RD
8. Cameron Dargie —
9. Colin Blume 124 Cook Rd
10. Sari Hoy 60 Main St.
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____