

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING
7:00 PM**

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

Others Present: Jill Hughes, Assistant to Town Administrator
Members of the Public

Chairman Pitman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by AMC Berkshire Chapter, AT Management Committee for property on Appalachian Trail west of Sheffield Egremont Road, 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: Leveling existing parking area. Application and compaction of no more than 24 cubic yards of mixed gravel. Work will take place within the footprint of the existing parking area, no change in slope.

M. Mitsoff stated that the applicant is only adding gravel to the parking area and leveling it and that the Commission visited the site in January with their other request. A discussion ensued.

M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to issue a Negative Determination #3. The motion passed 4-0.

D. Ward entered the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Donald Fisher, Bradford Fisher and Janice Fisher-Kelley for property on 996 Silver Street, 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: Existing septic tank to be removed and replaced with a 1300 gallon septic tank, install pump chamber and leaching field.

M. Mitsoff stated that the proposed project was an improvement since the existing septic system is failing. Mike Parsons from Kelly, Granger, Parsons & Associates explained the installation of the new system that will be installed. He stated that it is a difficult site to work in and suggested that the contractor install straw wattles where appropriate. **M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi, Jr. to issue a Negative Determination #3 with the following conditions: (1) Install straw wattles per Engineer's recommendation, (2) Use care when construction takes place close to pond, but not in proximity of Title V buffers or any other wetland buffers that can be seen on the map. The motion passed 5-0.**

Discussion/Possible Action on Encroachment by Abutter of/on TNC Shmulsky Tract/Lower Barnum Street:

The Commission discussed writing a letter to The Nature Conservancy and to the abutter of the property regarding the matter. M. Mitsoff recommended that the Commission finalize the letter to The Nature Conservancy and have Chairman Pitman sign. He also recommended that they use that letter as a basis for the one that will be sent to the abutter. M. Mitsoff will talk to Rene Wendell from The Nature Conservancy about walking the property once the letter is sent to the abutter.

Discussion/Possible Action on Disapproved Cutting Plan for BCWC LLC (dba Nova Farms) on Kellogg Road:

The Commission discussed the disapproved Forest Cutting Plan for BCWC, LLC. Chairman Pitman will reach out to Tom Ryan from DCR to discuss. It was the consensus of the Commission to discuss the matter at their next meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action on Enforcement Order for 1448 South Undermountain Road:

M. Mitsoff stated that the Commission has received no new information. He stated he would follow up with Emily Stockman. It was the consensus of the Commission to discuss the matter at their next meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The Commission reviewed draft meeting minutes from March 9, 2020. *M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to approve the March 9, 2020 minutes as written. The motion passed 4-0. D. Ward, III abstained from the vote.*

Review of Forest Cutting Plans:

The Commission received a copy of the Forest Cutting Plan for Bluebird Hill Development, LLC (Jim Kelly). A discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Commission to wait to review the plan since Jim Kelly has filed a Request for Determination of Applicability for the property. Chairman Pitman will contact Tom Ryan to discuss the Forest Cutting Plan.

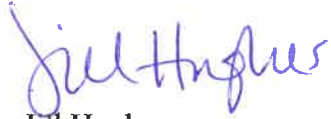
D. Ward, III inquired if Berkshire Fence has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for their property. Chairman Pitman stated that the Commission has received a request.

D. Ward, III stated that there has been a lot of land clearing in town in wetland jurisdiction. A discussion ensued. M. Mitsoff suggested that members make a list of properties that they notice work taking place for the Commission to discuss and take action if necessary.

There being no more business before the Commission this evening. *M. Mitsoff motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi, Jr. to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.*

Chairman Pitman adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jill Hughes

Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at the meeting:

Request for Determination of Applicability – AMC Berkshire Chapter and Donald Fisher,
Bradford Fisher and Janice Fisher-Kelley

Draft meeting minutes

Forest Cutting Plan