

**Town of Sheffield  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
January 11, 2021  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Ted Pitman, Chairman  
Arthur Batacchi, Jr.,  
Don Ward  
Martin Mitsoff

Members Absent: Cheryl Blackburn

Others Present: Mark Stinson, MASS DEP  
Lori Neil, Administrative Assistant  
Members of the Public

Chairman Pitman called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Chairman Pitman began with a continuation of a public hearing Notice of Intent Application, filed by Berkshire School for property on 245 Undermountain Road, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, sec. 40. The proposed project is to install a new underground electrical conduit to replace the existing overhead electrical wires. Steve Mack gave an overview of the project. Martin Mitsoff made a motion to approve Berkshire School's Notice of Intent for the installation of a new underground electrical conduit crossing the existing stream an issue an Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions: (1) Per Page 4 of Exhibit B, Project Narrative attached to Notice of Intent, (Mitigating Measures) and (2) Per Exhibit C, General Conditions for Construction-Phase Measures for Control of Sediment and Erosion and Protection of Wetlands, attached to Notice of Intent. Chairman, Ted Pitman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Price Realty Trust for property located at lots 8.4, 8.7, and 8.8 on County 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: to approve wetland delineations. Chairman Pitman and D. Ward attended the site visit today. Decision tabled until next meeting. M. Mitsoff made a motion to continue the hearing to next meeting, Chairman Pitman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Request for an Amendment to the language in Special Condition #2 on the Order of Conditions for SWCA Environmental Consultants. Per general condition #4, the Commission is issuing a 5 (five)-year Order of Conditions to coincide with the 5-year

management plan and 5-year MESA permit issued by NHESP. The Mill Pond Conservation Association will submit annual reports to the Conservation Commission reporting on the parameters detailed in the "Lake Monitoring Template: Mill Pond" monitoring chart submitted with the Notice of Intent. The Association will also submit the results of basic water quality analysis in the annual reporting (pH, dissolved solids, temperature, and dissolved oxygen), as stipulated in the "Supplemental Information" package submitted by SWCA Environmental Consultants, dated December 31, 2019. The annual reports will include a summary of findings and recommendations for adaptive management by a lake and pond specialist. The Association will also include all annual reporting details required by NHESP in this annual reporting. A. Batacchi made a motion to approve the language presented by Naomi Valentine of SWCA Environmental Consultants. Martin Mitsoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Possible Action on Enforcement Order for 1448 South Undermountain Road. The Commission tabled the matter until they hear back from Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates.

Discussion/Possible Action on Enforcement Order for 854 and 864 South Undermountain Road. Chairman Pitman and Don Ward have agreed to write a certified letter, requesting this plan to be presented for the next meeting on February 8, 2021. Martin Mitsoff made a motion to have Chairman Pitman and Don Ward draft a letter to 854 and 864 South Undermountain Road with regard to a time frame for the owner to provide a restoration plan under our Enforcement Order. Chairman Pitman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion on Scenic Mountain Act – Martin Mitsoff discussed the possible boundaries. There are two sources that could expedite potential delineations of at least elevations within the Town that would allow us to further consider any tweaking. The first is with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Mark Malloy. The Commission would propose to Mark, to display the ice and metric perimeters of everything that is above 800 feet, then another delineation above 1,000 feet and another above 1,200 feet and another delineation above 1,400 feet. This would help the Commission form an image as it goes forward with the Scenic Mountain Act legislation. The second source, as a possibility, is with the Nature Conservancy. Martin Mitsoff stated he has had a conversation with Rennie Windell who thinks one of his mappers could help. Martin Mitsoff stated with the Commission's approval he will try to get either the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission or the Nature Conservancy to provide us with the delineations.

Commission Member Items – Discussion of Draft Notice of Violation Letter. Mark Stinson, of MASS DEP made the Commission aware of possible wetland violations at multiple addresses. Martin Mitsoff will draft letters to each land owner to request site visits and identify the violation and educate the owner of corrective actions. Photos will be added to letters to assist in explaining/identifying each violation.

David Johnson, Chair of the Becket Conservation Commission, has requested to speak with other Chair Commissioners outside of their area to share questions and get feedback on a number of common issues confronting them and other Commissions. Chairman Pitman offered to be the spokesperson. Martin Mitsoff nominated Chairman Pitman to participate.

Review of the FY2022 Annual Budget – Martin Mitsoff made a recommendation to have \$50 added to the last line item description, Other, to pay for the Wetlands Enforcement Manual that was requested earlier.

Approval of Minutes – The Commission reviewed draft meeting minutes from November 19, 2020 and December 14, 2020. Martin Mitsoff made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Chairman Pitman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans – No Plans

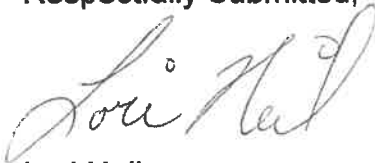
Public Inquiries – Sari Hoy inquired about the Scenic Mountain Act. The Commission will investigate the addition of view sheds.

A. Batacchi asked to have discussion at the next meeting regarding 1375 North Main Street.

Martin Mitsoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Pitman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori Neil".

Lori Neil

Administrative Assistant

**Documents reviewed at this meeting:**

FY2022 Budget

Draft Meeting Minutes

Draft Notice of Violation Letter