

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

Commissioners present: Don Ward, Chair
Ted Pitman, Vice Chair
Anya Rosoff
Rene Wood

Absent Commissioners: Don Roeder

Others Present: Josh Risen, Board Administrator
James Kelly

Chairman Ward opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

7:03 PM Continuation of Public Hearing concerning a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Richard & Catherine Goewey for property located at Waterfarm Rd.

The applicants Richard and Catherine Goewey requested to have the RDA for this matter withdrawn as they are intending to file a new NOI with regards to this project.

R. Wood made a motion to close the public hearing and to accept the withdrawal of the RDA, seconded by T. Pitman. The motion passed unanimously.

7:05 PM The Public Hearing closed.

Discussion/action on an Application for Certificate of Compliance (245 N. Undermountain Rd., Berkshire School, DEP File # 281-0259).

The original purpose of the project was to bury power lines. However, the representative of Berkshire School informed the Commission that no work was ever performed on this project and that they want to close this one out. A. Rosoff and T. Pitman conducted a site visit at 5:00PM for this project. R. Wood summarized that the applicant is looking for a Certificate of Compliance, indicating that the job was never started and that it is withdrawn. R. Wood stated that the Commission may need to get advice from D. Cameron as to how to deal with this since there is no box to check for withdrawal of the application as far as she is aware.

R. Wood made a motion to issue a Certificate of Completion by checking the second box (5(B)) under section 5, seconded by T. Pitman. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/action on an Application for Certificate of Compliance (245 N. Undermountain Rd., Berkshire School, DEP File # 281-0265).

The purpose of this project was the removal of a gazebo and its replacement with a rock garden, native bushes, and a sitting area. The applicant indicated that the work was completed last year and that all the erosion controls have been removed. A. Rosoff and T. Pitman stated that they conducted a site visit at 5:00 PM for this project. The Commission requested that for upcoming site visits that they would like to have the contact information provided of the individual who is going to meet the Commissioners, as well as a copy of any special conditions that may be in place so that the inspection can be conducted thoroughly. A discussion as to who should be providing the special conditions ensued. The Commission determined that the applicant should be informed to

bring documentation to the site visits which specify any special conditions. T. Pitman stated that the project had improved the aesthetics of the overall property and that the use of native plants and bushes was appreciated. *T. Pitman made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance by checking the first box (5(A)) under section 5, seconded by R. Wood. The motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion/action on Wesley McCain decision for property on 400 East Rd.

Chairman Ward opened this topic by indicating that he wanted to be sure all of the Commissioners were able to voice their opinions on this before issuing a final decision. T. Pitman stated that he was not sure if they were even allowed to rescind their earlier motion and thought that getting advice from D. Cameron would be helpful. R. Wood indicated that she stood firmly by the Commission's earlier decision and that she was sorry if it inconvenienced the applicant but the negative result occurred due to Shawn McCarthy's inability to request a continuation and not from any misstep by the Commission. Chairman Ward said that S. McCarthy should know better and that the Commission is well within their rights so deny the request to rescind. The Commission decided that Wesley McCain may reapply but that the decision from the last meeting to deny his application for failure to request a continuation stands.

Potential Forest Cutting Plan Discussion.

J. Kelly presented a map indicating where he anticipated a possible cutting of trees on the proposed Highway Garage location. Chairman Ward asked if any of the commissioners were interested in doing a site visit for this project. R. Wood stated that she would like to conduct a site visit when the architect starts to segment off the area for construction.

A discussion concerning cutting plans and how they operate ensued.

Approval of Minutes.

The Commission reviewed minutes from March 13, 2023.

R. Wood made a motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 2023 as amended, seconded by T. Pitman. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Inquiries.

R. Cunningham asked what process she is required to follow when cleaning up her yard and doing general maintenance on her property. Chairman Ward informed her that she should contact a reputable landscaping business as they will be able to direct her as to how to deal with normal yard maintenance. He also said that typical yard upkeep will not trigger any requirement by a property owner to come before the Commission. A general discussion of what the Commission's responsibilities are and how they are discharged ensued. A discussion concerning how the following three agencies Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Department of Environmental Protection interact ensued.

Commission Member Items.

Chairman Ward requested that the Commission discuss how to best use D. Cameron as a resource for the Conservation Commission. D. Cameron is charging at least \$65.00 per hour for his services and as such it is important that his efforts be used in the most productive way. The Commission decided that they would prioritize D. Cameron's efforts to be:

1. Training and education,
2. Consulting,
3. Reviewing the Town's website, and

4. For Peer Review.

R. Wood presented a document titled Conservation Commission Filing Tracker to the Commission for review. She stated that the document was generated by D. Cameron and that it was a sample form for keeping track of the Commission's activities so that they can become better organized. The concept being that the Commission will be able to use this filing tracker to ensure that they know which projects are still open and which ones have expired or have had a decision rendered.

R. Wood gave an update regarding the proposed meeting in the Town of Egremont to observe the Biomap presentation.

R. Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Pitman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Josh Risen, Board Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:

- Draft minutes of the 3/13/23 Conservation Commission meeting
- Conservation Commission Filing Tracker.
- Sign in Sheet

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: April 10, 2023

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. Tim Fulco 112 Vantage Rd. Sheffield
2. Richard Goewey 259 Lambert Cross Rd South Seb
3. Kate Goewey " "
4. Bryan Siter Foresight Land Services
5. Paul Wadell Hewins St
6. Rachel Cunningham 321 OS Rd, South Seb.
7. James Kelly 1899 County Rd,
8. _____
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