

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
JULY 10, 2023  
TOWN HALL FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
6:00 PM  
MEETING MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Josh Risen, Board Administrator  
Martin Mitsoff

**BioMap Presentation.**

Chairman Ward opened the meeting at 6:00 PM by introducing the Commissioners to Sarah Wasserman from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife who was presenting. S. Wasserman gave background information on how BioMap was developed and demonstrated the new data layers for local habitats. R. Wood asked if Mass Wildlife is using the BioMap to inform their decisions, and was told that they were not doing so. S. Wasserman stated that while BioMap is a valuable planning tool and resource, it is non-regulatory. R. Wood asked if BioMap can be viewed by parcel as the Commission has to deal with specific properties. S. Wasserman responded that yes it can be viewed by parcel if you zoom in on a specific location.

**Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Scenic Mountain Act Draft Legislation.**

R. Wood and M. Mitsoff provided the newest version of the SMA to the Commission. D. Roeder stated that an illustration of slope needed to be modified to properly reflect how measuring by way of transects works. The Commission decided to remove the slope illustration. R. Wood asked if the Commissioners had any further changes they wanted to discuss.

*R. Wood made a motion to adopt version number 9 of the SMA, as amended, as well as the Map and Text, seconded by T. Pitman. The motion passed unanimously.*

The Commission decided to schedule a time to meet with the Select Board to have them ratify the Map and Text of the SMA. It was also decided that the Commission would write letters to the Planning Board and the Board of Health to let them know that the SMA had been adopted. The Commission decided to have a representative (yet to be determined) present during the other Boards meeting on this matter to answer questions.

**Discussion/Possible Action on Commission Reorganization.**

Chairman Ward stated that he accepted the appointment of alternate for the Commission and that he was thankful and proud of the work that the Commission has done for the Town. R. Wood asked the Commissioners if they were comfortable with her being Chair. A. Rosoff asked if R. Wood would be able to separate her functions effectively between the Select Board and the Conservation Commission. R. Wood responded that yes she would be able to separate her two roles and that she has been doing so already. R. Wood stated that she may be willing to extend her position as the Chair of the Conservation Commission beyond the 6 months she agreed to originally.

*T. Pitman moved to nominate R. Wood to be the Chair of the Conservation Commission, seconded by R. Wood. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Chair Wood moved to nominate T. Pitman to be Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission, seconded by D. Roeder. The motion passed unanimously.*

The entire Commission expressed their appreciation and gratitude to D. Ward for his 15 years of service to the Town. A discussion about bringing on a new Commissioner ensued.

**Discussion/Possible Action on Appointment of Peer Reviewer for McCain Notice of Intent for Aquatic Management Program.**

Chair Wood gave an update on a conversation she had with D. Cameron in which he asked what the objectives of the McCain's are with regard to their NOI as he stated he did not view this as a Limited Management Project. D. Cameron told Chair Wood that there may be a better method to achieve the applicant's objectives outside of the NOI process, but that the objectives must be identified first.

A discussion of how to best use D. Cameron's consulting services ensued. The Commission decided that they wanted to have D. Cameron at the next meeting to give information on Limited Ecological Restoration Projects and to help the Commission decide if this NOI is properly filed as such.

D. Roeder stated that he wanted to propose to the applicant's representative that removal of weeds by hand could be a much more cost effective strategy for the McCain's, if they are only focused on the removal of potential invasive species. D. Roeder stated that he thought he could find individuals willing to remove the weeds by hand at a very affordable cost. The Commission warned him to be careful in how he approached making this suggestion.

**Approval of Minutes.**

The Commission reviewed the minutes. D. Roeder identified a spelling error to correct, and Chair Wood requested that an inaccurate sentence be deleted.

*T. Pitman made a motion to approve the minutes of June 26, 2023 as amended, seconded by D. Roeder. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Complaint – 142 Main Street.**

Chair Wood related D. Cameron's concerns that based on the information he has been provided this situation constitutes a weak basis for enforcement. T. Pitman presented a draft Notice of Violation letter that he thought should be sent out to the property owner at 142 Main St. T. Pitman stated that he would be willing to change the letter to be a Notice of Concern instead if that would be preferable to the Commission. Chair Wood stated that she was opposed to sending the letter and was not willing to go to bat on this, as there is insufficient proof of violation.

D. Ward suggested that the Commission discuss this matter with D. Cameron prior to taking any further actions. Chair Wood stated that she was going to write another letter to the complaineé inviting him to attend the next Conservation Commission meeting.

**Review Mail.**

Chair Wood requested that the mail be put into the Commission's mail box for further review.

*T. Pitman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by A. Rosoff. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Josh Risen,  
Board Administrator

**Documents reviewed at this meeting:**

- Draft minutes of the 6/26/2023 Conservation Commission meeting.
- NOI filed by McCain, DEP File # 281-0275.
- Scenic Mountain Act version 9.
- Draft Notice of Violation letter.

## Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: July 10, 2023

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. MARTIN MITSOFF

S.U.R, Sheffield

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