

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 10, 2017
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Donald Ward, III, Chairman
Arthur Batacchi, Jr.
Cheryl Blackburn
Jeffrey Collingwood
Theodore Pitman

Others Present: Jill Hughes, Clerk
Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

Chairman Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Extension Permit Request for Order of Conditions issued to The Nature Conservancy (DEP #281-0234). Angela Sirois-Pitel was present to request a three year extension on the Order of Conditions. She explained that work on the boardwalks and the bridges have been completed and the bench has been installed on the Drury Preserve, but they need to continue with the invasive plant control. She handed out the general maintenance plans to the Commission. A discussion ensued. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from J. Collingwood to approve the extension request for another three years on the Order of Conditions. The motion passed 5-0.**

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent Application filed by Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation for property on Route 7, proposed project is repairs to the existing roadway shoulder embankment area for Route #7 along Hubbard Brook from Station 270+05 through Station 271+48.5. Amer Raza was present and gave a brief overview of the area where the work will be done. A site visit by the entire Commission was conducted prior to the meeting. Mr. Raza explained that the project is now an emergency and the Army Corp of Engineers is in the process of reviewing it. The embankment holding the road needs to be replaced. If the work is not completed as soon as possible they will have to close a lane of the road. The Commission reviewed the plans for the project and the April 7, 2017 letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (NHESP) regarding the emergency work. A new Sheet #4 that is replacing the original Sheet #4 in the plans and the 4/7/17 NHESP letter was entered into the record. A discussion ensued about the project. **C. Blackburn motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi, Jr. to close the public hearing. The motion passed 5-0.**

There was a discussion on special conditions for the project.

J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from A. Batacchi, Jr. to approve the Notice of Intent and issue an Order of Conditions for Mass DOT with the following special conditions:

- 1. The Commission will receive a copy of the Standard Environmental Specifications for Erosion/Sediment Control from MassDOT.**
- 2. Refer to the April 7, 2017 letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, MA Endangered Species Act Authorization for Emergency Action (list of conditions in the letter).**
- 3. The Commission has the authority to comment on the plant/seeding plans that MassDOT submits to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.**

The motion passed 5-0.

Request for Certificate of Compliance for Berkshire School (DEP File #281-0230), 245 North Undermountain Road. A site visit by the entire Commission was conducted prior to the meeting. The Commission reviewed the Special Conditions on the Order of Conditions. A discussion ensued. **C. Blackburn motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Berkshire School. The motion passed 4-0. J. Collingwood abstained from the vote.**

Emergency Certification Form for County Road. Chairman Ward stated that he signed off on the Emergency Certification Form for property on 1101 County Road so they can breach the beaver dam on the property. He stated that the Commission would need to vote to approve or amend the permit. A discussion ensued. **J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to approve the Emergency Permit as written. The motion passed 5-0.** The members signed the Emergency Permit.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed draft minutes from March 13, 2017. **A. Batacchi, Jr. motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes as written. The motion passed 4-0. C. Blackburn abstained from the vote.**

Discussion on NHESP & DFW Draft Priority Habitat Map of Rare Species. The Commission reviewed and discussed the March 27, 2017 letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The map can be viewed on-line and public comment on the draft is available April 3, 2017 through June 3, 2017. A discussion ensued.

Bills Pending: The Commission reviewed and signed a bill.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: The Commission reviewed a Forest Cutting Plan for James Larkin, property on Sheffield Egremont Road.

Upcoming Conferences and Mail: Chairman Ward mentioned an upcoming event on forestry with Jim Kelly at the Town Park.

The Commission reviewed the March 30, 2017 Housatonic Railroad Company 2017 Yearly Operational Plan from TEC Associates.

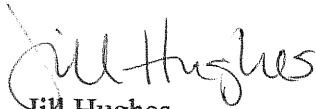
Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Commission this evening, *T. Pitman motioned, with a second from J. Collingwood to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The following documents were reviewed during the Board's meeting and have been retained as required by the Massachusetts Public Retention Policy: Meeting Agenda, Sign in sheet, Draft meeting minutes 3/13/17, Extension Request from The Nature Conservancy, NOI for MassDOT, 4/7/17 letter from NHESP, COC Request from Berkshire School, Emergency Certification Form for 1101 County Road, Forest Cutting Plan, 3/30/17 Housatonic RR Vegetation Control Program report.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jill Hughes
Recording Secretary

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: April 10, 2017

Name – PLEASE PRINT	Street, Town
1. Angela Sirois-Pitel	Great Barrington, MA
2. Amey Raza	DOT
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	