

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 14, 2016
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Don Ward, Chairman
Cheryl Blackburn
Jeff Collingwood
Ted Pitman

Commission Members Not Present: Peter Stiglin

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

T. Pitman stated that Chairman Ward would be late for the meeting and recommended they appoint a temporary Chairman. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to appoint Jeffrey Collingwood as temporary Chairman. The motion passed 3-0.**

J. Collingwood called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. **J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to move the agenda out of order. The motion passed 3-0.**

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by The Trustees of Reservations for property on Cooper Hill Rd, proposed project is to remove hedgerows and invasive species from several old fields to improve grassland breeding birds and to improve the fields for late-season hay. Julie Richburg was present for the Trustees. Ms. Richburg explained that the project area consists of several old fields which have become overgrown with small trees, shrubs and invasive vines. There is a bordering vegetated wetland south of the fields, but the clearing work will not be into the wetland. They plan to mow back the fields and hedgerows and clear mature trees within the field. The project will benefit the habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife. The Commission reviewed the aerial map of the property and the 12/23/15 letter from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife that stated the project is exempt from MESA review. A discussion ensued about the project. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to issue a Negative Determination #1 on the project. The motion passed 3-0.**

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Steven Weinreb & Cynthia Heller for property on 252 Bow Wow Rd, proposed project is to remove existing deck on house and replace with a smaller footprint and to remove and replace the dock. Bob Johnston contractor for the project was present for the applicant. Members of the Commission conducted a site visit prior to the meeting. Mr. Johnston explained that they are replacing the existing deck on house with a smaller footprint and will also replace the dock. The dock is 5-feet wide and 16-feet long and they will be using the same posts that are in the water. A discussion ensued about the project. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to issue a Negative Determination #2 and**

#3 with the following condition (1) Place straw wattles for erosion control. Remove once surface is stabilized. The motion passed 3-0.

Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Sheffield for property on County Road, proposed project is to replace the structurally deficient bridge which carries County Road over Ironwork Brook. Jeff Malloy, Micah Morrison and Janine White from BSC Group were present to explain the project. Members of the Commission conducted a site visit prior to the meeting. Mr. Malloy gave a brief overview of the project. The Town has received a Mass Works Grant to do the projects. The existing bridge is a three sided concrete structure approximately 11-feet wide by 24-feet long with a depth of 4.9-feet and the proposed replacement bridge will also be a three sided concrete structure (16-feet wide by 27.3-feet long with a depth of 5.5-feet). Rip-Rap will be placed in the area. At the last meeting the Commission requested additional information on the project. Mr. Malloy spoke about the construction sequencing and control of water plan, which is detailed in the response to comments package dated 2/19/16. Mr. Malloy explained that they meet 5 out of the 6 Stream Crossing Standards, so the project is considered a Limited Project. A discussion ensued about the Stream Water Crossing Standards. J. Collingwood inquired about the hydraulics design and a discussion ensued.

D. Ward entered the meeting at 7:30pm.

Mr. Malloy stated that they would be filing a time of year restriction with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and a pre-construction notification to the Army Corp of Engineers. A copy of Special Conditions was reviewed by the Commission and the BSC Group.

J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve the Notice of Intent for the Town of Sheffield County Road bridge project with the attached Special Conditions. The motion passed 4-0.

Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Sheffield for property on County Road, proposed project is to replace the structurally deficient culvert which carries County Road over an unnamed tributary to Ironwork Brook. Mr. Malloy explained that they meet 5 out of the 6 Stream Crossing Standards, so the project is considered a Limited Project. The existing culvert is a steel pipe 6-feet diameter and 28-feet long and the proposed replacement culvert will be a concrete box culvert 8x8 and 31-feet long. Rip-Rap will be placed in the intermittent stream. They discussed the wetland resource areas that are identified and delineated. J. Collingwood inquired about the culvert hydraulic analysis that was submitted and the method that was used to calculate the flow. J. Collingwood stated he thought the numbers were aggressive and would like to see more conservative numbers. He would also like to see calculation for a 100-year storm. Selectmen Hawver and Smith expressed their concerns with the requests for extra information which has caused a delay and increased expenses. These extra expenses on the engineering side will affect the amount of grant funds left for construction. A discussion ensued about the project.

J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve the Notice of Intent for the Town of Sheffield County Road culvert project with the attached Special Conditions, including submit a revised Attachment C dated 2/19/16 with Tier 55 flow rate as a separate document. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed draft minutes from February 8, 2016. *C. Blackburn motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve the February 8, 2016 minutes as written. The motion passed 4-0.*

Bills Pending: The Commission reviewed and signed a bill.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: There were no cutting plans to review.

Upcoming Conferences and Mail: There was a meeting notice of the Berkshire Conservation Commission Coalition on March 29th @ the office of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

T. Pitman talked about the MACC conference he attended.

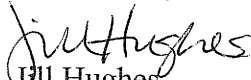
The Commission reviewed two public hearing notices for the Planning Board and one for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Commission this evening, *J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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 2/8/16; RDA for The Trustees of Reservations; RDA for S. Weinreb & C. Heller; NOI for Town of Sheffield-County Rd bridge; NOI for Town of Sheffield-County Rd culvert; BCCC meeting notice.

Respectively submitted by:


Bill Hughes
Recording Secretary