

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MARCH 13, 2017  
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
7:00 PM**

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

Commission Members Not Present: Cheryl Blackburn

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

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

**Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Ellen Rowntree for property at 660 Salisbury Road, proposed project is the treatment and removal of invasive species. Are will be mowed in the dormant season.** Jess Toro from Native Habitat Restoration was present for the applicant. Ms. Toro gave a brief overview of the area where the work will be done. There are shrub and vine invasives along the bank that will be cut and removed. The entire area will be mowed down with a walk-behind DR mower in the dormant season. Any regrowth will be treated with herbicide. They would like to plant six native shrubs to stabilize the bank and discourage regrowth of invasives. There are also two Phragmites patches on the property that will be treated as well. Ms. Toro stated that work would start in 3-4 weeks and herbicide treatments would be done in September or October. She will be receiving a MESA letter soon and will forward it to the Commission. Ms. Toro also stated that there would be another treatment on the Phragmites in 2018. A discussion ensued about the project. **J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to issue a Negative Determination #3 on the project with the following conditions: (1) Commission will receive a copy of the MESA approval letter, (2) Commission will receive a copy of the final plant/shrub list, (3) Commission will receive an annual letter on the status of the continued maintenance on the property. The motion passed 4-0.**

**Public Comment:** Martin Mitsoff read a letter that was presented to the Board of Selectmen on March 6, 2017 regarding Sewage Sludge Contaminants. A discussion ensued. Jim Kelly who was present in the audience stated that he would inform the Agricultural Commission about this.

**Review of Forest Cutting Plans:** Jim Kelly was present to talk about the plan for Berkshire School on North Undermountain Road. Trees were blown down so they plan to

go in and do a general clean-up and harvest. Mr. Kelly submitted the 3/13/17 letter from NHESP. Tom Ryan has signed off on the plan. A discussion ensued. The Commissioners stated that they did not have any issues with the plan. The Commission reviewed a Forest Cutting Plan for Moskowitz on Berkshire School Road. Jim Kelly explained that Natural Heritage put conditions on the plan so amendments were made.

**Extension Request for the Fawn Lake Order of Conditions (DEP #281-0216):** The Commission received a request for extension from Solitude Lake Management. The current Order expires on 6/8/17. The Wildlife Habitat Evaluation was reviewed. A discussion ensued. **J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve a one year extension for the Fawn Lake Order of Conditions. The motion passed 4-0.**

**Extension Request for the Mill Pond Association Order of Conditions (DEP #281-0173):** The Commission reviewed the request for extension from Solitude Lake Management. A discussion ensued. **J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve a one year extension for the Mill Pond Order of Conditions. The motion passed 4-0.**

**Extension Request for the Perlman Pond Order of Conditions (DEP #281-0166):** The Commission reviewed the request for extension from Solitude Lake Management. A discussion ensued. **J. Collingwood motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve a one year extension for the Perlman Pond Order of Conditions. The motion passed 4-0.**

The Commission discussed asking Solitude Lake Management to attend a future meeting to give them an update on current projects. Chairman Ward will work with their clerk to draft a letter.

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

**Discussion on Meeting Schedule:** The Commission had a brief discussion on changing their meeting schedule. It was the consensus of the Commission to continue holding their meetings on Monday nights.

**Bills Pending:** The Commission reviewed and signed a bill.

**Upcoming Conferences and Mail:** There was no mail or upcoming conferences to discuss.

The clerk spoke to the Commission about a beaver issue at 1101 County Road. She informed them that the Board of Health reviewed and approved a 10-day Emergency Beaver Permit. The property owners are asking the Commission for permission to breach the dam, since their well and septic system are under water and there is significant flooding on the property. A discussion ensued about conducting a site visit to approve the

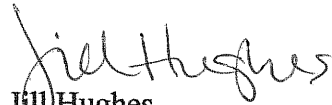
Emergency Permit. J. Collingwood and T. Pitman volunteered to do a site visit as soon as the weather permits. The property owner will be contacted.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 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 2/13/17, RDA for Rowntree, Extension requests for OOC's for Fawn Lake, Mill Pond and Perlman Pond, Forest Cutting Plans, 3/6/17 letter to BOS re: sewage sludge .

Respectfully submitted by:



Jill Hughes  
Recording Secretary

# Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: March 13, 2017

Name – PLEASE PRINT

Street, Town

1. Jess Tovo 19 Cherry Hill, Stockbridge
2. MARTIN MITSOFF S. Undermountain Road, Sheffield
3. John Kelly 1899 County Road, Sheffield
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