

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
JUNE 13, 2016  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
7:00 PM**

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

Commission Members Not Present: Peter Stiglin  
Jeff Collingwood

Others Present: 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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation for property on Route 7A (Ashley Falls Road). The purpose of the hearing is to gather information regarding the proposed project: for rehabilitation improvements to the existing storm drain segment servicing Ashley Falls Road (Route 7A) near Town Common.** A site visit was conducted prior to the meeting. Amer Raza from MassDOT explained the construction of new storm drain elements and the construction of two manholes accommodating the new storm drain alignment on Route 7A (Ashley Falls Road) and Rannapo Road. He further explained that the work will not alter any area subject to protection under the act and that erosion and sediment control measures will be utilized. The project is within NHESP priority habitat of rare species and the Commission reviewed a letter from them dated 5/11/16. NHESP determined that the proposed project will not result in a prohibited "take" of state-listed rare species. The Commission also reviewed an email dated 6/8/16 from John James of the Ashley Falls Historic District Commission who concluded that the work would not significantly alter the town green, but asked that upon completion of the work the disturbed area be restored. A discussion ensued about the project. Mr. Raza stated the project is proposed to start sometime next year. The Commission asked to be notified prior to the start of work. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to issue a Negative Determination #1 on the project. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Project Update: Solar project (Altus Power) on Lime Kiln Road.** Alana Chain and Zachary Resnick from Altus Power were present. D. Ward and T. Pitman went on a site visit prior to the meeting. Ms. Chain gave the Commission an update on the project along with a revised set of site plans. She stated that power lines are being installed along the west side of the property because of new protective and grounding

requirements from the utility company. A discussion ensued with the Commission and abutter Arthur Batacchi, Jr. about the project, power lines, tree screening, flooding and site plans. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to accept the revised site plans and add them to the file. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Approval of Minutes:** The Commission reviewed draft minutes from May 9, 2016. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve the May 9, 2016 minutes as written. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Bills Pending:** There were no bills to approve.

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

**Upcoming Conferences and Mail:** The Commission reviewed a meeting notice from the Sheffield Land Trust, a financial report from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and a memo from the Town Accountant regarding the process of bill paying for the end of the fiscal year.

Chairman Ward spoke about the Berkshire Conservation Coalition meeting that he and T. Pitman attended. The topic of discussion was invasive plant mitigation. Chairman Ward said it was a very educational and informative presentation.

Chairman Ward informed the Commission that the Town sent a letter of support for The Trustees who are applying for a grant to develop erosion control measures at Bartholomew's Cobble and to protect rare species habitats and wetlands at Naumkeag in Stockbridge.

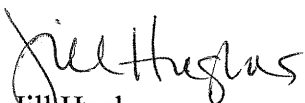
Chairman Ward asked the Commission about joining the Housatonic Valley Association. T. Pitman and C. Blackburn agreed that it was a good idea. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to join the Housatonic River Association and be a Stream Sponsor for the amount of \$100.00. The motion passed 3-0.**

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the Commission this evening, **D. Ward motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 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 5/9/16; RDA for MassDOT; Plans from Altus Power; Sheffield Land Trust notice; financial report of Berkshire Taconic Foundation; memo from Town Accountant.

Respectively submitted by:

  
Jill Hughes  
Recording Secretary