

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2016
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

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

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

Chairman Don Ward called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Massachusetts Department of Transportation for property on 1269 North Main Street, proposed project is: to maintain the existing paved surface at highway maintenance facility. Existing pavement will be milled and resurfaced. Amer Raza was present for MassDOT. Members of the Commission conducted a site visit prior to the meeting. Mr. Raza explained that the proposed work will not alter any area and that erosion controls will be put in place. No widening or enlargement of the roadway will occur and no change in grade. A discussion ensued about the proposed project. **P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to issue a Negative Determination #2 with the following condition (1) Notify Commission if millings sit for more than 30 days. The motion passed 5-0.**

Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability filed by The Nature Conservancy for property on South Undermountain Rd and Barnum Street, proposed project is to improve wetlands and early successional habitat in the work areas for common rare species. The project area consists of 4 parcels of conservation land. Angela Sirois-Pitel and Jess Toro were present. Ms. Sirois-Pitel explained that they received a grant from the state and MassDEP and NHESP have also reviewed and approved the proposed project. She also explained the early successional and priority area habitat management plan for the Schenob Brook Preserve and the Drury property on Barnum Street. Ms. Toro gave an overview of the process of the removal of invasive plants and a discussion ensued. **P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to issue a Negative Determination #2 and #3 with the following condition (1) Portions of proposed work area are exempt from Wetlands Protection Act. The motion passed 5-0.**

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. Micah Morrison and Jeff Malloy from BSC Group were present to explain the project. An NOI was filed for each project, but were talked about jointly. A Supplemental Information

Packet and a Wetland Replication/Mitigation Plan and Scheduled Narrative for both projects were made part of the record and were reviewed. Each project has to have an independent review by the Army Corp of Engineers. The Town has received a Mass Works Grant to do the projects. Mr. Malloy explained that this is being proposed as a Limited Project, which allows maintenance, repair and improvements of culverts and the project is designed to be in compliance with the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. The existing culvert is a steel pipe 6-foot 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. The area will be graded and seed mixture and plantings will be placed. They discussed the wetland resource areas that are identified and delineated. Mr. Malloy explained that a letter would have to be sent to the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from the Commission for a Time of Year waiver. A discussion ensued about the project and the area.

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. MassDOT has required the bridge width be reduced to one lane and is at risk for closure. 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. They discussed the wetland resource areas that are identified and delineated. A discussion ensued about the project, the area and the Mitigation Plans. J. Collingwood inquired about the construction method and about a hydraulics report and a discussion ensued. He asked that they be submitted for the Commission to review.

Mr. Morrison stated that they would like to get the project out to bid and start construction as soon as possible. Karen Chamberland who lives nearby asked about timeline and road closure. Mr. Morrison stated that the bridge would be done first and the road would be closed. The culvert would be fixed after completion of the bridge and the road would also have to be closed. The Commission stated they would need to conduct a site visit and review the documents they requested before they could issue an Order of Conditions. **D. Ward motioned, with a second from P. Stiglin to continue the hearing on the Notice of Intent-County Road bridge and the Notice of Intent-County Road culvert to March 14, 2016 @ 7pm with a site visit @ 3pm that day or any other day to be coordinated. The motion passed 5-0.**

Form B-Application for Approval of Preliminary Plan: Proposed Subdivision for 864 South Undermountain Road. George Johannesen from Allied Engineering was present for the applicant Race Brook House Limited Partnership. Mr. Johannesen stated that this was an informational presentation. A site plan was reviewed. The current property consists of non-conforming lots and the applicant would like to put in a cul-de-sac to create four lots to make them conforming along with 2 other lots in the back that go up the mountain. They are planning on putting a four unit multi-family home on each of the four lots and each lot is approximately 2 ½ acres. Each lot will have its own well and septic system. Race Brook runs through the property. A discussion ensued about the project and what the Commission would have jurisdiction over. Martin Mitsoff spoke about his concerns with the proposed project.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed draft minutes from January 11, 2016. **P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from J. Collingwood to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes as written. The motion passed 5-0.**

Bills Pending: The Commission reviewed and signed a bill.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: The Commission reviewed and discussed plans for Undermountain Road-Bartholomew, Brush Hill Road-Jones and West Sheffield Road-Story.

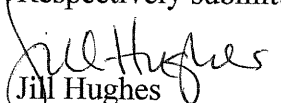
Upcoming Conferences and Mail: There were no conferences or mail to review.

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 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 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 1/11/16; RDA for MassDOT; RDA for The Nature Conservancy; NOI for Town of Sheffield-County Rd bridge; NOI for Town of Sheffield-County Rd culvert; Form B Application for Race Brook House Limited; (3) Forest Cutting Plans (listed above).

Respectively submitted by:


Jill Hughes
Recording Secretary