

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 9, 2018
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Donald Ward, III, Chairman
Cheryl Blackburn
Theodore Pitman

Commission Members Not Present: Arthur Batacchi, Jr

Others Present: Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

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

Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Scott and Amy Margolis for property at 1296 Ashley Falls Road. The proposed project is the construction of a screen porch, relocation of a propane tank, removal of thirteen mature trees and the planting of fourteen native shrubs. Portions of the work are located within bank, riverfront area and bordering land subject to flooding. Chairman Ward explained that the Commission had received a letter requested by the Margolis's giving recommendations set forward by the National Heritage & Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Chairman Ward read the letter aloud. The letter specified a wood turtle protection plan. This plan would protect the wood turtle during the invasive control mowing. However the plan is only required between the wood turtles active season March 16 - September 30. Chairman Ward explained the project is outside of this time frame so it will not apply. Additional provisions listed on the letter are as follows, to protect from erosion, to comply with the completion of construction, and finally to receive authorization after five years as these provisions will expire. A discussion ensued. Ms. Wanda Styka, a neighbor to the Margolis's across the river was invited to speak by Chairman Ward. Ms. Wanda Styka wanted to come to the meeting tonight to inform her neighbors as she has been a witness to flooding in the area since 1920. Wanda would like to make sure that her neighbors take this into account when building their new porch. Chairman Ward explained to the audience and Wanda the flood plains in Sheffield by the river have been taken into account during project planning. Chairman Ward thanked Wanda for being neighborly and sharing her information. Chairman Ward read a letter from Emily Stockman with her comments on the NHESP letter. E. Stockman will now be submitting a second NOI for Phase 2 portion of the NHESP letter that will be specific to the invasive plant control in two areas within the property. Chairman Ward stated that since the entire parcel is in MESA jurisdiction NHESP will review the second NOI once it is filed with the Commission. **T. Pitman motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to approve the notice of intent and issue a Order of Conditions for Scott and Amy Margolis with the following conditions: standard order of conditions NHESP conditions in the October 4, 2018 letter. The motion passed 3-0**

Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Patrick & Donna Annunziata of Rannapo Rd. The proposed project is for improvements to an existing woods road for access to a new house site. Chairman Ward began that he and T. Pitman had the opportunity to visit the site today. Chairman Ward invited the contractor working on the project, Gregg Wellenkamp, to join the Board at the head table to show his current plans for the project of the wood road and the surrounding area. A discussion ensued. Chairman Ward then reviewed a letter that was received from NHESP after the botanical survey that was performed as this is a priority habitat because of the protected species of tree the Burr Oak. Chairman Ward stated that the Annunziata's are being respectful to the species that are in the area and to the process developing the driveway. He continued to explain one of the conditions will be to add placement of the two culverts, roughly 20 inches in diameter, and add the conditions set forward in by NHESP letter. He stated that this will be an improvement with the installation of the new culverts. **T. Pitman motioned to approve the NOI and issue an Order of Conditions for Patrick and Donna Annunziata with a second from C. Blackburn to accept the standard order of conditions in the NHESP conditions set forth in the September 20, 2018 letter. The motion passed 3-0.**

Update Enforcement Order: 1448 South Undermountain Road: Chairman Ward explained the site visit has been postponed on October 22, 2018 at 5pm. Mark Stinson, MassDEP will be in attendance to answer questions that the Conservation Commission has about the wetlands in this area. The engineer involved has been invited to the site as well. This is continued to the October 22, 2018 meeting.

Update Enforcement Order: 992 Foley Road: Chairman Ward explained that the contractor had asked for more time beyond the original completion date. Chairman Ward allowed the extension until the meeting in November. **Chairman Ward motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to ratify the extension. The motion passed 3-0.**

Emergency Permit: Mountain Water Systems: Chairman Ward explained that he has signed the Emergency Permit so that Mountain Water Systems can perform the work immediately so that there would be no loss of water. **Chairman Ward motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to ratify the emergency permit. The motion passed 3-0.**

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed draft minutes from September 10, 2018. **C. Blackburn motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes as written. The motion passed 3-0.**

November Meeting Schedule: Starting November until March Conservation Commission will be meeting once a month. The next meeting will be on November 19, 2018.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: None at this time.

Upcoming Conferences and Mail: Chairman Ward stated that there are some upcoming MACC seminars. A discussion ensued. Chairman Ward, T. Pittman, and C. Blackburn will be attending the fall seminar. Chairman Ward stated that he had emailed Lauren from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission a request to run a seminar for contractors to help them recognize wetlands. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or ACEC will be invited to join the Conservation Commission to a meeting in December or January by T. Pittman to go over the areas in Sheffield that would pertain to ACEC. The commission reviewed a letter from the MassDOT.

Public Comment: Martin Mitsoff was invited to speak by Chairman Ward. M. Mitsoff asked if there have been any submission in the past six month for any beaver conflict. Chairman Ward replied that there has not been any submission in the past six months to the Conservation Commission. He continued to address the Commission to express his interest in joining the Conservation Commission. Chairman Ward told Martin to submit his interest to join the Commission in writing to the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectman to review and appoint.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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, NOI for Margolis, NOI for Annunziata, and 9/10/18 meeting minutes, Emergency Permit for Mountain Water Systems, Letter from Mass DOT.

Respectfully submitted by:



Renée LeClair
Recording Secretary

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: October 9, 2018

Name – PLEASE PRINT	Street, Town
1. MARTIN MITSOFF	Undenuta Rd
2. Wanda Styka	Ramapo Road
3. GREGG WELLENKAMP	KALISTE HILL RAMP GT. BARRINGTON
4.	
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