

Shutesbury Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting
(Approved 7/22/21)

Commissioners Present: Miriam DeFant, Robin Harrington, Mary David, Beth Willson
Guests: Melissa Dasko, Janice Stone, Don Wakoluk, Scott Kahan, Shane Bajnoci, Joseph Rogers, Jennifer Jones
Interim Clerk: Penny Jaques

DeFant opened the meeting at 7:02pm

Minutes from 06.24.21 Minutes were considered and approved as presented.
Thank you Mary David for taking minutes at the 6.24.21 meeting

Pratt Corner Road parking lot site visit Joseph Rogers, Shane Bajnoci and Jennifer Rogers represented the project. The DFW has proposed creating a gravel parking lot for public access as part of its conservation project at Lot ZG-2 on Pratt Corner Road. While a >100 sq ft wetland is present on the site, all Commissioners agreed that the proposed work is greater than 100' away and thus not under the jurisdiction of the Commission

Commissioner vacancies The Commission welcomed Beth Willson to her first meeting as a new Commissioner. Melissa Dasko attended the meeting with an interest in joining the Commission. Scott Kahan is also interested and has been attending meetings.

Commission quorum calculations with vacancies DeFant informed the Commission that with a membership of 5 Commissioners, the quorum remains 3 unless commission votes to reduce quorum. For the moment, with 4 members, the Commission can do its work within this framework unless a member must be recused. No action was taken.

Associate members DeFant has created a draft policy for Associate Members see attached). David asked whether an Associate Member can be counted for quorum. DeFant: No, but It would give such members a more formal role. Both Willson and Harrington see value in the consultant role. Stone and Willson noted that both South Hadley and Amherst Conservation Commissions have Associate Members and that these individuals can fill Commission vacancies.

DeFant made a motion to pass the Associate Member policy. Willson seconded. Role call: DeFant: aye; David: aye; Harrington: aye; Willson: aye.

DeFant made a motion to appoint Janice Stone and Don Wakoluk as Associate Commissioners Harrington seconded. Role call: DeFant: aye; David: aye; Harrington: aye; Willson: aye.

MACC dues and eHandbook DeFant submitted paperwork to renew membership the Commissioners membership in MACC. Jaques will submit paperwork for four eHandbooks at \$15 each for DeFant, Harrington, David and the Conservation Commission Clerk.

MSMCP dues The Commission voted unanimously to renew the MSMCP dues (\$20/year for commission membership).

Renew Commission Officers It is recommended that the Commission re-elect its officers annually. David made a motion to re-appoint DeFant as Chair. Harrington seconded. Roll Call: David: aye; DeFant: abstain; Harrington: aye; Willson: aye. DeFant nominated David as Vice-Chair. Harrington seconded. Roll Call: David: abstain; DeFant: aye; Harrington: aye; Willson: aye.

Site Visit Follow-up

- 579 West Pelham Road, new well project (David prepared site visit form)

The well project has been approved by Board of Health. The Commission determined that the site is not jurisdictional.

- Pratt Corner Road DFW Parking Lot Project: G-2. (Harrington prepared site visit form). See above discussion.

Site Visit Scheduling

Donald Fletcher, Cornwell/Cooleyville Road is planning to construct a porch and addition to single family home. Jaques will notify the homeowner that the project footprint must be staked prior to the Commission's visit on Tuesday, July 13 at 4 p.m.

Anticipated site visit: Linda Grybko will submit an RDA make her existing watering system compliant. The system uses water from Lake Wyola.

7:15 pm Public Meeting for Shutesbury Highway Department Projects RDA. The RDA includes 3 projects: paving the Highway Department parking lot (Lot H-11), taking down and removing an old garage (Lot O-32), and replacing a 12-inch culvert on Sand Hill Road (near Lot T-8).

The hearing cannot be opened as the RDA paperwork was not submitted by the required deadline. The classified ad was published and abutter notices were sent, but as a new public meeting date/time must be set, both will be redone. The new meeting is **7:20pm on July 22.**

As an aside, the cost of the Certified Mailing the \$140. Jaques reminded the Commission that it should continue to move forward with amending the Town Wetlands Bylaw to allow abutter notification by Certificate of Mailing, a significantly less expensive method.

7:45 pm Continuation of Public Meeting for Fire Station RDA Repaving fire station parking lot. First site visit 6/14/21, second site visit on 6/28/21. Conditions will include: creating an asphalt berm along the western edge of the paved area and leaving a 6' vegetated buffer strip between the west edge of the paved area and the nearby wetland.

Public Hearing closed with negative determination with conditions that were agreed upon during the meeting.

Wheelock Solar Site As follow up to the recently submitted Wheelock Solar Site annual report, DeFant makes a motion to recommend to the Planning Board that they conduct annual site visits and request that they invite the Conservation Commission to join them. Harrington

seconds. Role call: DeFant: aye; David: aye; Harrington: aye; Willson: aye.

As DeFant is an abutter, she must go through an Ethics Commission process to visit the site.

Rostas and Gang Conservation Area field mowing The Rostas and Gang Conservation Area abuts Amherst's Haskin Meadow Conservation Area. Amherst has arranged mowing of the shared field for a number of years. Jaques will contact former Commissioner Barry Field to see if he will continue to serve as liaison on this project and arrange for the field mowing this year.

Sumner Mountain CR monitoring Jaques reported that Charley Eiseman has been hired for the past two years to conduct the annual CR monitoring visit to Sumner Mountain. She recommended that Eiseman be hired to do this again this year, as the terrain is challenging and Eiseman knows the site well. There are dedicated funds associated with this CR that are used to cover this expense. DeFant moved to hire Eiseman to monitor the Sumner Mountain CR this summer. Harrington seconded. Roll Call: David: aye; DeFant: aye; Harrington: aye; Willson: aye. Jaques will contact Eiseman.

DeFant invited Melissa Mudasko, who is interested in joining the Commission, to attend several meetings to determine that she and the Commission are a good fit. Mudasko lives on Lake Wyola and works in the humanities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm

Next Meeting: July 22, 2021 at 7:00pm

Submitted by Miriam DeFant, Conservation Commission Chair, 7/22/21