

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 11, 2013 – 6:30 pm

Second Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother, Deb Picking, Donna Francis, Justin Fermann, Sean Werle and Addie Holland

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey- Agent

Mark Fairbrother called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Approval of Minutes May and June 2013:

Motion made by Addie Holland to accept the May 9, 2013 minutes. Seconded by Donna Francis. ***Motion passed unanimously. Justin Fermann abstained from vote.***

Motion made by Sean Werle to accept the June 13, 2013 minutes as amended. Seconded by Addie Holland. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

No public hearings were scheduled.

Correspondence and Other Business:

- **Request to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP file 229-0230 by Franklin Conservation District for restoration on the Sawmill River at North Leverett Rd on property identified as Assessors Map 192 Lot 103.**

Guests: Carolyn Ness –Project supervisor for the Franklin Conservation District and Deborah Shriver – Grant Administrator for Franklin Conservation District and Steve Winters- Montague resident

There was a site visit conducted prior to the meeting on July 11, 2013 with members of the Conservation Commission, the Conservation Agent, and three other interested individuals from the public. Carolyn Ness and Deborah Shriver have provided the Commission with the final closeout documentation. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin was the environmental consultant on the project. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin stamped the as-built plans and provided a letter certifying that the project has been completed as proposed. The commission expressed their satisfaction with the product. The agent noted that there were no ongoing special conditions attached to this project; it was suggested to do a review of the project after some time has passed to see how the project has fared over time.

Carolyn mentioned that the grant for this project has been extended for 1 year as it came in under budget and on time. This extra money that was left over from the grant needs to be used for the benefit of the Sawmill River watershed. The Franklin Conservation District would like to use it for the Sawmill River Fish Bypass near Ripley Road. Some significant time has passed since this project was initiated so they are planning to use the money for a new design and getting the project “shovel ready” for the future.

Motion made by Deb Picking to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP file 229-0230 by Franklin Conservation District. Seconded by, Donna Francis. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

- **DEP file 229-0231- Olive Street Development – 15 School Street- NOI 2012. Discuss minor amendment to the site plan involving the relocation of the refuse disposal area within the buffer zone of a jurisdictional wetland.**

The Agent presented a minor change to Olive Street Development’s site plan for file 229-231. The ZBA required time to relocate the refuse disposal area due to public safety concerns (fire truck and EMT access) from the back of the building. The proposal is now for placement of the refuse area next to the solar canopy with some modifications. The area will now be on a pad to prevent spills and fenced in for both aesthetic reasons and to keep wildlife out. The refuse area will be within the buffer zone. It was determined that there is no need to amend the NOI but instead make a note in the current file to this change.

- **DEP file 299-0232 Thomas Memorial Golf Club P.O. Box 16 Turners Falls, MA. Discuss potential change in season of dredging work.**

The Agent provided an update on the project. Thomas Memorial Golf Club has since filed with the Army Core of Engineers and they are still deciding between a Category 1 or Category 2 permit. The Army Core of Engineers wants the dredging of the pond work done only during summer months; when the Conservation Commission conditions were for the project to happen during the winter months. The reason for the winter time frame was that it will have less impact on the wetlands and that was the desired timeframe of the applicant. The Conservation Commission will allow the change but there will have to be an amendment in writing since the time frame for the project will significantly change. This amendment could be as simple as a letter in the file.

- **DEP file 229-0230- South Street Bridge Dredging project Enforcement Order update.**

Agent had invited Suzanne Kretzenger to attend this meeting for some discussion on the South Street Bridge Dredging project. This project is on hold until DEP advises the Town on the next steps due to the Town of Montague not be allowed on Suzanne Kretzenger’s property to do corrective measures.

Topics not anticipated:

- **FirstLight- proposed work near Canal- exempt**

FirstLight will be doing some work on the canal dike mandated by FERC because it is considered “high risk”. This project is slated to start this summer and run through the summer of 2014. They are being required to fill in the depression areas at the bottom of the dyke where there are wetland areas and the drainage flows towards Montague City. FirstLight will be bringing in some heavy equipment and will be filling in at the toe of the levy. FirstLight has filed this project under a “utility maintenance exemption” with no restoration intended to be done. Agent noted that they are not exempt from a water quality certification; so they have been referred to DEP for water quality permitting.

Motion made by Justin Fermann to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by, Sean Werle. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:32 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____