

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 14, 2013 – 6:30 pm

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

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother, Justin Fermann, Sean Werle, and Addie Holland

Commissioners Absent: Donna Francis and Deb Picking

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey- Agent

Guest: Alexander Peterkin (12 K Street #1)

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

Approval of October 10, 2013 Minutes:

Motion made by Sean Werle to accept the October 10, 2013 minutes with Donna's comments. Seconded by Addie Holland. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6:30 Notice of Intent 2013-03- NICHOLAS SALUSTRI- 97 GREENFIELD RD

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission opened a public hearing for a Notice of Intent #2013-03 filed by Nicholas Salustri for stabilization of 40 feet of bank of a perennial stream at 97 Greenfield Road.

Guests: Anthony Wonseski (Senior Engineer at SVE Associates), Nick Salustri, Linda Salustri

Note: See RDA 2011-07: Positive Determination for a similarly proposed scope of work.

Anthony W: The perennial stream, originally parallel with Greenfield Road, has migrated and now turns sharply into Mr. Salustri's driveway culvert. This has resulted in driveway erosion which threatens both the driveway and residential utilities. The applicant proposes to protect the existing timber walls and do some temporary stabilization of the banks possibly due to undersized downstream culverts; Mr. Salustri's culvert has accreted sediment, leaving approximately 2-2 ½ feet of available space in the 5 ft culvert. When the Salustri home and driveway was built they required a 5 foot culvert to be installed at his driveway which, according to Anthony W was a good recommendation at the time. SVE Associates has done some hydraulic calculations for this same area to see what the volume coming down off the hill is; and has found that the current culvert is properly sized to handle the volume even today with the exception of a 100 year storm. There will be rip rap and silt fencing installed which all can be done at the top of the driveway. SVE Associates will not be impacting the BVW while working in the resource areas. The plan is to work at the top of the driveway and scoop out material and then put down some geo-textile fabric down along with adding some rocks into the area. The changes will help the flow of the water as it tends to vortex and has nowhere to go and thus cuts down on the capacity of the culvert which is an ongoing issue. On the downstream side, the water speeds up and there is erosion happening on an abutters (Whiting) property. This is a short term fix for an ongoing issue; it would be great in the long term if the stream could be redirected back to its original state along with the other culverts being brought up to a larger capacity size and placed at proper elevations.

Mark Fairbrother asked that SVE Associates, as a courtesy, issue a letter to the Town of Montague stating their observations regarding the migration of the stream and the undersized and improperly elevated residential culverts. This letter will be shared with the State which is making a significant investment in Greenfield Road rehabilitation. Mark Fairbrother also asked the agent to do some research and check if the next two culverts downstream were ever permitted. These were believed to be installed in the 1970's & 1980's. One of the two lots is undeveloped, the other a residential house. Agent noted that any development on either site would require a Notice of Intent.

Agent noted that DEP issued a file number and had no comments or additional conditions for the project. Mark Fairbrother closed the hearing at 6:44 PM

Motion made by Justin Fermann to issue an Order of Conditions for NOI 2013-03 for Nicholas Salustri of 97 Greenfield Road with the following special condition: Notify the Commission at least 48 hours prior to commencing work. Seconded by Sean Werle. **Motion passed unanimously.**

AGENT UPDATE:

Forest Cutting Plan #2013-04 Barbara Craven

Update given that the project is underway and two plans were submitted one in July 2013 and one in September 2013. No action required.

Franklin Conservation District's proposed amendments to S.319 Grant: Sawmill River Implementation Project

The South Street Bridge restoration plan has been received from Lattrell Ecological Consulting LLC for the enforcement order. There is a signed real estate agreement with the landowners and the Board of Selectmen is expected to sign the agreement soon. The restoration plan of the Sawmill River is slated to begin this fall. The project is to be done in two phases. The first phase will be to take the top off the bank/berm that was created when the bank was dragged up on the side so that the river can capture the floodplain during the high water. The second phase will be in the spring and will focus on bank restoration. The second phase will include stripping off the entire cobblestone and reseeding the bank. They will not be able go below the annual water line due to the trout breeding season; which is why the project will now be done in two phases.

There is money that is left over from the recent Sawmill River s319 project. The Agent and the Franklin Conservation District are exploring the possibility of using the money to design a bioengineered solution for the South Street Bridge over the Sawmill River. Under this plan, The Franklin Conservation District will do the design but will not be able to fund the construction. The District will have to apply for a S. 319 Grant to complete the construction on the project. The project appears to have support from DEP and DFW. The timeline is as follows: Winter 2013 Design, summer 2014 Construction. We are trying to make the project dovetail and be compliant with the enforcement order. If funding doesn't happen we can still be compliant with just doing the bank stabilization. The Commission Concurred. Agent will keep the Commission updated.

Motion made by Sean Werle to adjourn the meeting Seconded by Addie Holland. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:14 PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____