

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 9, 2014 – 6:30 pm

Upstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Donna Francis, Alex Peterkin and Sean Werle

Commissioners Absent: Deb Picking, Justin Fermann, Addie Rose Holland

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey - Agent

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

Approval of September 11, 2014 Minutes:

Motion made by Donna Francis to accept the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes. Seconded by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed.**

Public Hearing: RDA #2014-03 filed by the Montague Highway Department to conduct maintenance to a roadway culvert in proximity to 154 North Leverett Road. Work area is within the riverfront area associated with the Sawmill River.

Guest: Tom Bergeron – DPW Superintendant and Alfred Range – Property Owner 154 North Leverett Rd

Tom B: The culvert maintenance plan includes the removal of sediment from within the culvert and at the outflow to reestablish flow. The sediment consists principally of sand from the roadway. The culvert is currently 90% blocked and not functioning. The work will remove sediment covering an area not larger than 300 square feet at the out flow. The use of an excavator will be necessary. Topography and hedges between the road and culvert do not allow all the work to be done from the street; so permission has been sought to allow a small excavator to access the culvert from the yard of 154 North Leverett Road belonging to Alfred Range. The culvert outflow area has rip-rap stone underneath the sediment. Dredging will occur to that point. There are two catch basins on either end of the Range property. The catch basins were put in around 1996 and there has been a lot of road sand that has collected in there after the area was redone following a micro burst that year.

Agent: Work is within the riverfront area, but exempt. Under the riverfront protection act you can maintain existing structures as long as no changes are made. Work is also within the buffer zone of the upstream wetlands area across the road. The Commission should make a determination if the wetlands area would be affected.

Tom B: The work is planned for as soon as there is approval from the Conservation Commission.

Alfred Range expressed urgency of the project and agreed to work with DPW to ensure the removed sediment is properly placed and seeded.

Motion made by Sean Werle to approve the RDA #2014-03 with a negative determination box 3 and 5 with the condition that dredged sediment may remain on-site in the approved location, but must immediately be seeded with native grass mix. Seconded by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed.**

Updates:

Request for reimbursement: Alex Peterkin has requested to be reimbursed for expenses for a workshop (soils) from MACC on October 4, 2014.

Motion made by Donna Francis to reimburse Alex Peterkin \$95.00 for the MACC workshop from the wetlands protection fund. Seconded by Sean Werle. **Motion passed.** Alex Peterkin abstained from the vote.

Topics not anticipated within 48 hours posting requirements:

Sawmill River Recreation Area: Walter was called today by Josh Goldman of Montague Center regarding funding resources for the mowing of the far side of the sawmill river recreation land. Mark Fairbrother has offered to mow the area for free if Fish and Wildlife gave permission. Walter will connect with Fish and Game about scoping out a solution.

Motion made by Donna Francis to adjourn the meeting Seconded by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:04 PM.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____