

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 12, 2020- 6:30pm

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

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother (Chair), Donna Francis, Justin Ferman, Alex Peterkin, Laurie Reid

Commissioners Absent: Deb Henson, Sean Werle

Staff: Walter Ramsey (Agent)

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

MOTION to approve the minutes from January 9, 2020 by D.F. Seconded by J.F. Abstained by A.P. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION to approve the minutes from February 13, 2020 by D.F. Seconded by J.F. MOTION PASSED.

6:35PM: PUBLIC MEETING: REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: RDA #2020-01 filed by Turners Falls Rod and Gun Inc. to determine if the removal of 5 trees is subject to the Riverfront Protection Act. Work will occur in the Riverfront Area associated with the Connecticut River at 15 Deep Hole Drive on Assessor's Parcel Map 17 Lot 18. W.R. presented photos of the site and a letter from the Turners Falls Fire Department stating that the trees pose a safety risk. The file includes a "no take" determination per the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. FirstLight owns the land and they will allow the cutting to proceed once this final permit is in place. DEP has advised that an RDA be filed.

MOTION to issue a negative determination (Box 2) for RDA 2020-01 by A.F. Seconded by J.F. Vote is unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

6:40PM Conservation Agent Report

Consider Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal Option for 1.1 acre building lot on corner of Sunderland Road and Gunn Rd (Assessor's ID Map 51 Lot 100). This corner parcel is surrounded by houses. While the soils are agriculturally productive, agricultural land use is not feasible because most of the former field has been converted to residential use. The lot is not contiguous to other protected or priority protection land. The commission reviewed the plot plan and concurred.

MOTION by A.P. to recommend that the Selectboard waive the Town's right of first refusal for parcel ID Map 51 Lot 100. Seconded by D.F. Vote is unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

6:48PM Preview of Upcoming Business

- Millers River path at Newton Street construction begins soon (NOI 2019-04).
- Fifth Street Pedestrian Bridge replacement. Upcoming RDA expected this spring
- Chestnut Loop Bridge replacement (Massachusetts Small Bridge Program Grant) NOI will be filed in the next month or two

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:55PM by D.F. Seconded by M.F. Vote is Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____