

# Montague Conservation Commission

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## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2020- 6:30pm

REMOTE via ZOOM

This Meeting was recorded

**Commissioners Present:** M. Fairbrother (Chair), S.Werle, D. Hensen, J.Ferman

**Commissioners Absent:** Donna Francis, Alex Peterkin

Absent: Addie Holland

**Staff:** Walter Ramsey (Agent), Suzanne LoManto (clerk)

**Present:** Kenneth Morin, James Arcoleo

**6:36PM:** Mark Fairbrother called the meeting to order.

*MOTION to approve the minutes from March 12, 2020 by J.F. as amended seconded by S.W. MOTION PASSED unanimously.*

**6:31pm: PUBLIC MEETING REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: RDA #2020-02** filed by James Arcoleo to determine if the removal of approximately three acres of trees and southern red pole pines for the purpose of growing crops and an orchard is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property location is on Old Sunderland Road known as Assessor's Map 50 Lot 18. J.A. conferred with expert foresters and they were of the opinion that the pole pines were not properly thinned and "essentially useless." J.A. has also filed a concurrent RDA with Sunderland because work will occur across town lines. W.R. comments that the cutting is outside resource areas and over 100feet away from wetlands boundaries. W.R. visited the site last fall. The area is flagged. An IVW is in both Sunderland in Montague: about 900 square feet is in Montague. J.A. plans to keep the hardwood but get rid of pole pines and bitter sweet. The Commission will require flagging to identify work limit boundaries and an erosion control fence to protect the stream and BVW. W.R. will inspect after the hay bales are in place.

*MOTION by DH to issue a negative determination with condition discussed: the area described in the request is not an area subject to the protection under the Act of the Buffer Zone. Seconded by JF. Roll Call Vote: MF (Y) S.W (Y) D.H. (Y) J.F. (Y) MOTION PASSED*

*MOTION by J.F. to authorize the Chair to be sole signatures on behalf of the Commissioners for all permits issued today, due to COVID restriction. Seconded by D.H. Roll Call Vote M.F. (Y) S.W (Y) D.H. (Y) J.F. (Y) MOTION PASSED.*

**7:00pm: RATIFY EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE 2020-01:** Montague Department of Public Works emergency response to storm water conveyance failure off Millers Falls Road affecting Assessors Map 15 Lot 20 (between 89 and 103 Millers Falls Road. WR describes the washout showing several photos. The DWP took an emergency action by inserting a smaller pipe to direct water lower on the hillside. The slope is still exposed and the emergency action by the DPW is only temporary. A permitted action is required. FirstLight will also require proper permitting. WR consulted Mark Stinson who is OK with the certificate.

*MOTION by D.H. to ratify emergency certificate 2020-01. Seconded by S.W. Roll Call Vote: M.F. (Y) S.W (Y) D.H. (Y) J.F. (Y) MOTION PASSES.*

**7:05pm: PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Hydrology and drainage issues affecting Thomas Memorial Golf Course at request of Ken Morin.** K.M. gives background on the golf course, including a history, rain events, erosion, sedimentation, and the current condition of the drainage system. KM suggests cutting a proper slope, lowering the coverts, and installing a filter. KM is planning on creating a committee to address on -going problems. K.M suggests a site visit; he is worried about what would happen to the golf course if we had several years of wet weather. M.F. agrees a site visit is a good idea, and would like to record K.M.'s intentions so the commission can advise him on permit filing requirements. D.H. reviews the actual delineation, buffer zone and jurisdiction. Walter and Mark will make a site visit to better understand the situation.

**7:34pm: CONSERVATION AGENT UPDATE:**

Millers Fall Riverfront Trail construction is complete, including a kiosk. The project has been well -received by the public.

*MOTION TO ADJOURN by S.W Seconded by D.H. Vote is Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.7:37pm*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_