Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ February 12, 2013

Members Present: Norman Davenport, Tom Miner, Allan Smith, Stephen McCormick

Public: Donovan Stevens

The meeting was convened at 7:40 PM. A quorum was present.

Public meeting on RDA for 94 Main Street. The meeting was opened at 7:45 PM. Owner Donovan Stevens was present and briefly explained the project, which entails renovation of home including placement of buried propane tank. The area for the tank is 75 feet from the riverbank, 20 feet from the south side of the house. Recommend Negative 5 based on 310 CMR 10.58(4)(c) - redevelopment of a previously developed riverfront area and not closer to the river than existing conditions. Signed by all members present. Authorized $39.78 for ad payment, unanimous approval. The meeting was closed at 7:55 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 11/13/12 meeting were unanimously approved, motion by Alan, seconded by Tom.

**Review of correspondence, announcements received in the last month**

WiFi access is now available to town commissioners, and password was distributed.

WMECO 2013 Yearly Operating Plan notice

National Grid 5-yr Vegetation Management Plan notice and 2013 Yearly Operational Plan notice

ZBA – new Certificate of Receipt of Application and Project Documents so that they can keep track of projects and documents they have supplied to other commissions.

Forest cutting plans, ZBA notices, etc.

Notice from UMASS Extension of Keystone Project that educates landowners especially forest owners on conservation practices that can be applied to their land.

**Organizational matters**

Authorized MACC 2013 membership renewal $111.00, unanimous approval.

Sustainable Franklin County Open House announcement.

Commission vacancy (Dave Thompson has resigned). Steve volunteered to draft a letter of thanks. Discussion of who might be an able replacement as a fifth member.

**New Business**

Future of the Rainville property on Route 112 was discussed. The property has been discussed by Open Space Committee for possible purchase by town. In the event of it going on sale the Town may have right of first refusal.

A Municipal Certification on conservation restriction on the Cohn-Smith Property on Cooper Lane was received from the Franklin Land Trust. There was a substantive discussion and debate of value of conservation restrictions in general and this property in particular. This is a permanent restriction, and it is unclear what the town is actually getting in return. There is likely to be some conservation value, but little to no public access. The configuration of the parcel that includes the house makes it unlikely that it could ever be purchased by a farmer to continue the agricultural use it had it the past. Straw poll indicated that a majority of ConCom would not support the CR, so it was not signed.

Next meeting: March 5, 2013

Prepared and submitted by: Steve McCormick