Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ September 1, 2015

Present: Norman Davenport, Tom Miner, Todd Blake, Steve McCormick

Absent: Member Allan Smith and Associate Member John Richardson

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: None

Chairman Norm Davenport convened the meeting at 7:33 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Todd, to approve the minutes of August 4 and August 18.

Voting to approve: Norm, Tom, Todd, Steve

 Opposed: None

 Abstaining: None

**Correspondence**

Tom had received a call from a consultant who was working for New England Power on a driveway drainage project at 241 Jim Barnard Road, notifying the Commission that the work was finished. The ConCom does not sign off on the completion of RDAs.

An email meeting notice was received from the Planning Board concerning a Sept. 23 public meeting on open space zoning. Members of town committees and Board are encouraged to attend.

A copy of a letter from the Board of Health to Thom Simmons, regarding noxious spray used on the Iron Bridge over the Deerfield River, had been received.

**Building Permits/ZBA Reports/Forest Cutting Plans**

A building permit had been received for Nathan Martin. Tom reported that the permit was for only interior work, so there was no need for ConCom involvement.

A Forest Cutting Plan was received for property owned by Norm and Lisa Davenport. Norm explained the harvest is primarily to remove hemlock that had been hit by wooly adelgid. Trees to be saved have been marked. The Commission discussed the plan and had no comment. Norm recused himself.

**Old Business**

Pipeline Scoping Comments. The comments submitted by the Commission have been revised due to a mistake concerning a fault line in the Deerfield River. It turned out that the 1970s plan for a proposed new dam was dropped due to flood control issues, not because of a fault line. The actual fault line is 10 miles away. However, it was noted that a geologist has expressed concern about how fissures and cracks in the area geology may be affected by the proposed pipeline. FERC will develop an Environmental Impact Statement, with which the applicant must comply. This statement will likely take up to six months to complete.

Pipeline Schedule. Tennessee Gas has said that the actual application for the pipeline project will be filed about October 24. Following the filing, towns and agencies will have three weeks to file for intervenor status. The EIS scoping comment deadline has been extended beyond August 31, but a new deadline date has not been set.

At the end of the meeting Todd told the Commission that he would be moving out of town in the Spring. He intends to continue serving on the Commission as long as he is a town resident.

It was noted that the Harriet Paine pond project, approved at the August 4 meeting, is moving ahead.

At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made by Tom, seconded by Steve, to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant

**Document List**

Minutes of August 4 and August 18 meetings

Notice of open space zoning meeting from Planning Board

Letter from Board of Health to Thom Simmons

Forest Cutting Plan for Norm and Lisa Davenport

Revised letter to FERC