Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ May 10, 2022

Present: John Richardson, Norm Davenport, Steve McCormick

Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Sue Surner, Brett Trowbridge

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom.

It was noted that there had been no meeting in April.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Norm, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of September 14, 2021.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

**Organizational Matters**

The Commission should have a liaison to the Open Space Committee. No one volunteered.

Mark Stinson would assist with creating bundled NOIs for the Highway Department. His fee would be $2,500. The Wetlands Protection Fund contains $800. Otherwise, there is no money for this in the budget. Norm will discuss this with Highway Superintendent Mark Shippee.

**Building Permits**

Permits for a deck replacement and the replacement of shingles on a roof had been signed off by John.

**RDA Meeting for NSTAR– 7:15 p.m.**

Brett Trowbridge, Senior Ecologist for VHB, presented the plan to do habitat management along the power lines. The lines would be accessed via Wilcox Hollow. The plan is to control and remove invasive species while promoting state listed rare species. The site has a number of wetlands. The area is near the Deerfield River, there are also several wetlands and hillside seeps. Species to be removed include multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, and Asian bittersweet. Backpack sprayers would be used, by licensed applicators. Targeted treatments would be done, primarily foliar treatment, with some basal treatment, and cut and dab. No spraying will be done within 10 feet of standing water and no work will be done on windy days. Brett will be there to provide oversight. The RDA will be valid for three years. Most of the work is planned for this year but there may be some follow up next year. The Board felt the narrative was very complete.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the RDA application from NSTAR as a Negative 2 determination with no conditions.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

**RDA Meeting for Paige Montague– 7:30 p.m.**

Page is asking to install a culvert, which would run through her horse paddocks. Currently there is a swale coming from South Shelburne Road which builds up with ice and mud. She would like to have a culvert extending the entire length of her field from the road to a stream. The culvert would be about 780 feet in length. The water running through the swale is intermittent.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the RDA application for Paige Montague with a Negative 1 determination with the following condition: all work must be done in the pasture, not in the wetlands or buffer zone.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

**Vacant Position**

No one has heard from Allan Smith in several months and he never accepted his most recent reappointment to the Commission. It has been determined that he is no longer a member of the Commission. Susan Berger has expressed willingness to join the Commission if the meeting night could be changed. The Commission agreed that the meetings could be changed to the second Thursday of each month.

**Fire Ponds**

Maintenance of approved fire ponds is exempt but the Commission must grant the exemption. Two ponds on Bardwells Ferry Road need work. The Fire Department is interested in making one an official fire pond. The other pond needs work on its dam. A fire pond must be available for use year round. Both ponds will require RDAs and the one with dam work may need an NOI

The next meeting will be June 9, 2022.

 At 8:09 p.m. Steve, seconded by John, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Steve – yes; John – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Administrative Assistant