Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ June 16, 2022

Present: John Richardson, Norm Davenport, Steve McCormick

Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Eric Foley, Michael Sokolovsky, Fernanda Harrington, John Harrington, Jim Richardson, Susan Berger

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

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of November 23, 2021 and the minutes of March 8, 2022.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**Building Permits**

A building permit application for a property on Zerah Fiske Road should first have an RDA as wetlands may be involved. The Commission will not sign off on the permit at this time.

**RDA Meeting for Michael Sokolovsky– 7:15 p.m.**

Michael owns property at 241 Barnard Road. A good amount of the invasive Japanese knotweed is growing on both sides of a culvert on the property and Michael would like to remove it and eventually replace it with native species. A company called Land Stewardship Inc. would be cutting and treating the invasives and eventually planting native plants. It could be several years before the planting is done.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the RDA application as submitted by Michael Sokolovsky with a Negative 2 determination and no conditions.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**New Business – New Member**

Susan Berger is interested in joining the Commission. She has looked into MACC courses and would be interested in taking some of them. She has read a portion of the WPA. Steve encouraged her to take MACC courses. Susan asked how people were supposed to know if they need to come before the Commission with projects. It was agreed that it is hard to get the word out, people often learn from their neighbors’ experiences. The Commission agreed to recommend to the Selectboard that Susan be appointed to the Commission.

**RDA Meeting for Harrington/Richardson – 7:40 p.m.**

There are two ponds in close proximity on Bardwells Ferry Road. One or both of them could be used as fire ponds. Both John Harrington and Jim Richardson thought the upper pond might be a better fire pond, but the lower pond still would need dam repair. It was hoped that the dam repair could fall under normal maintenance. The lower pond would be accessible from May through October. However, fire ponds must have year round access. Norm said the DEP has only two reasons for dam repair without an NOI, one is for a fire pond and the other is for watering livestock. Jim said he would just do routine maintenance this year and wait on the dam repair. As long as the pond has at least three feet of water in it, the Fire Department can use it. Jim said he would make sure there was always that amount of water in the pond.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the RDA application of Harrington/Richardson as a Negative 5 exempt activity as a fire pond with the following condition: the pond must not be drained for more than 7-10 days per year for maintenance as an existing fire pond.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

The next meeting will be July 22, 2022.

At 8:21 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