Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ July 14, 2022

Present: John Richardson, Norm Davenport, Steve McCormick

Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Benjamin Redman, Simon Hilt, Matt Kelly

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom and was being recorded.

**Organizational Matters**

Susan Berger will be joining the Commission. She will be added to the MACC roster. With the addition of Susan, the Commission now has four members. No one has heard anything from Allan Smith, who has not attended a meeting or responded to emails in many months. He is not on the list to be reappointed and never accepted his last appointment.

An RDA application has been received from S & N Logging. The business is a client of John’s so he has to recuse himself. Steve is an abutter and must recuse himself. That leaves only Norm and Susan to hear the application and that is not a quorum. If an application is filed and the Commission doesn’t act, the DEP can take over and make the decision. Town Counsel recommended that DEP step in.

A discussion was held on in-person meetings. Steve would like to go back to meeting at Town Hall. John prefers Zoom meetings. Faye said the only town board to meet in person has been the Finance Committee, which has been meeting at the Shelburne Fire Station. The Town Hall opened to the public two weeks ago, but no committee has met there as yet. It seems that most boards prefer to continue with Zoom meetings.

**RDA Meeting for Benjamin and Emily Redman, 20 Bardwells Ferry Road**

The Redmans purchased the property last year. The septic system has failed and needs to be replaced. The previous owner was supposed to get the system replaced and he submitted the original paperwork but did not follow through. Shawn Kimberley did the plan. The leach field will be placed as far from the nearby brook as possible, approximately 50 feet from the brook. Steve said if there were any alternatives to the plan those would be encouraged but there are no alternatives. The site is constrained by a well and property lines. The system already exists and this will be an improvement.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the RDA application as submitted by Benjamin and Emily Redman with a Negative 3 determination with the condition that all work be done in accordance with best management practices including the use of silt barriers while the work is being done.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

**NOI Hearing – Eversource**

Simon Hilt explained that Eversource plans to replaced seven structures and replace wires that carry electricity, in a 1.2 mile stretch in Shelburne. More clearance will be needed so there will be some tree removal, even a few in the riverfront. There will also be a new structure in the riverfront. Matt Kelly said two trees will be removed from a wetland area. The area will be matted during construction to protect the ground and the wetland. Access to the right of way will be from Taylor Road and from Old Albany Road in Deerfield. Once the right of way is cleared of trees it will be managed at low growth. Eversource is converting the edges of the right of way from forested land to scrub shrub land. The work in Shelburne will take approximately 18 months. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to find in favor of the NOI as submitted by Eversource.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

The next meeting will be August 11, 2022.

 At 8:10 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