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Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ October 13, 2022

Present: John Richardson, Norm Davenport, Susan Berger, Steve McCormick, John Harrington

Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Pat Conlin, John Wheeler, Carolyn Wheeler

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 Susie, to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John R

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: Susie, John H

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John R, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2022.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John R

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: Susie, John H

**Mail**

None

It was mentioned that at a previous meeting Jim Richardson had said he would be dredging silt from the bottom of a pond. In fact, he is taking it from the left bank of the pond and selling it. It was Steve’s opinion that it was not a problem if he was making the bank steeper. It would be a problem if he was making the pond larger.

If a citizen makes a complaint to the Commission, the Commission is obligated to investigate. If a member sees something, it is discretionary depending, how significant it might be. The general rule is to speak to the landowner and remind them about paperwork.

**Continuation of** **RDA Meeting for Susan Berger, 94 Main Street – 7:15 p.m.**

Susie had contacted DEP Circuit Rider Mary Grover about the use of herbicides on a riverbank, as well as Land Stewardship Inc. Her plan is to let the invasives alone for this year and get her own herbicide applicator license. Next year the invasives will be cut in June and herbicide applied in August. The RDA had contained several proposed activities. The removal of some trees had been approved previously and a plan for a deck had been withdrawn.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John R, to approve the RDA application of Susan Berger, with a Negative 3 determination for the removal of several trees; the plan as presented for the removal of invasives, and the installation of pavers, with the following condition: work to be done on knotweed requires cutting to be done in June and having a licensed applicator apply herbicide in August.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John R

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: John H, Susie

**RDA Meeting for John & Carolyn Wheeler, 314 Little Mohawk Road – 7:30 p.m.**

John and Carolyn have recently purchased the property. They have spoken with Mass Fish & Wildlife about getting rid of invasives. They contacted Pat Conlin, who has come up with a plan for mitigating invasives and they have also found that funds are available for providing habitat for state-listed species. Hedgerow invasives will receive two treatments. First the shrubs will be cut and removed and herbicide will be placed on the cut stems. The next treatment will specifically target any of the remnants. The phragmites will receive a systemic herbicide application in the fall and will probably need two additional treatments. Exemptions exist for routine agriculture, but this project is close to Dragon Brook. The land is used for hay and the invasives are encroaching into the hay fields.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John H, to approve the RDA for John and Carolyn Wheeler with a Negative 2 determination.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John R, John H, Susie

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

**RDA Meeting for Charles and Launie York, 180 South Shelburne Road – 8:30 p.m.**

Charles and Launie York want to do maintenance on an existing fire pond. They also asked to be able to repair and replace an existing livestock crossing. No one from the York family was present. It was felt that there was an exemption for work on an existing fire pond and also an exemption for agriculture for the livestock crossing 10.04B3.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Susan, to approve the RDA for Charles and Launie York with a Negative 5 determination with exemptions for the fire pond and livestock crossing.

 Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John R, John H, Susie

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

The next meeting will be November 17, 2022.

At 8:23 p.m. Steve, seconded by Susan, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John R – yes; Susan – yes; Steve – yes; John H – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Administrative Assistant