Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ September 10, 2024

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

Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Cynthia Boettner, Rick LaPierre, Erasme da Cruz, Jeff Johnston, Jessika Myler, Connie Clarke, Hana Isihara

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by John R, seconded by Susan, to approve the minutes of August 13. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Susan – yes; John R – yes; Steve – yes; John H – yes. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Mail**

A note from Launie York had been received. She was questioning a building site, that she felt was too wet. No building permit for the site has been issued. The site would need to perc before it could be built upon.

**7:15 p.m. – RDA Meeting for Mass DOT, Route 112, MM 44.15**

The headwall of a catch basin in that area may be washed out. The plan is to replace the headwall and expand the rip rap by about five feet. There will be no work done in any water and erosion controls will be in place. The problem area is on the river side of the road. No stream is involved, the catch basin is for rain and storm water runoff. John H asked if there was any knotweed in the area. The area has been reviewed by Mass Fish and Wildlife and no knotweed was found in there. The work should start within a month. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Susan, to approve the RDA application submitted by Mass DOT as a negative 2, with no conditions. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Susan – yes; John R – yes; Steve – yes; John H – yes. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**7:30 p.m. – RDA Meeting for Zack Ventrella, Old Greenfield Road**

Neither Zack nor anyone else associated with this RDA meeting appeared. A motion was made by John R, seconded by John H, to continue the RDA meeting for Zack Ventrella until the next regular meeting. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Susan – yes; John R – yes; Steve – yes; John H – yes. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**7:45 p.m. – NOI Hearing for New England Power**

Erasme da Cruz presented the plan. The project is to do soil borings to evaluate conditions for the placement of future structures. Access to the site will be via Orchard Road. Borings will be done by a machine located on the back of a truck. The area in question is owned by National Grid. To gain access and use the site about 784 square feet of trees and shrubs will be removed. Matting will be used. The soil that will be removed will be placed on the matting, which will be surrounded by sediment controls. The soil will later be used to back fill the holes. The project still needs a determination from Natural Heritage. When that is received it will be forwarded to Faye. A motion was made by John H, seconded by John R, to continue this hearing to October 8, 2024. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Susan – yes; John R – yes; Steve – yes; John H – yes. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Old Business**

**Old Greenfield Road – knotweed removal**

Knotweed and other invasives have appeared on property owned by Connie Clarke and Camille Cosby, as a result of fill put in by the highway crew. The areas where the invasives are located are stable but on steep slopes. The soil is clay-based. Wetlands are close by. John H thought herbicides would be required and the applicator would need to come before the Commission. Rick LaPierre said at a recent Selectboard meeting two options were presented, herbicides and smother and cover. The Selectboard had voted to have Highway Superintendent Jeff Johnston submit RDAs for both cover and smother and for herbicide use. September and October are the best times to attack the invasives. Connie Clarke has bees and is opposed to herbicides. John H wanted the DEP to be contacted. Cynthia Boettner said the Mass Dept, of Agricultural Resources permits the use of herbicides along rights of way and have chemicals for use near wetlands. The applicator would need to have a special license. Cynthia has a list of applicators which she will give to Jeff. The Commission agreed to meet again on September 24 to discuss this further and when the RDAs should be in hand.

Susan and John R left the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

**Patten Road culvert/fire pond**

A site visit was held with the landowners, Jeff Johnson, Fire Chief John Taylor, and Mark Stinson in attendance. The fire department will use its pumps to divert the water during construction. John Taylor will help Jeff write a NOI then send it on to Mark. Mark had suggestions concerning the replacement pipe/culvert.

The next meetings will be September 24 and October 8.

At 8:32 p.m. a motion was made by Steve, seconded by John H, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Steve – aye; John H – aye; Norm – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Administrative Assistant