

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 12, 2018 6:30 PM

Upstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Alex Peterkin, Addie Rose Holland, Laurie Reid-Associate, Donna Francis and Sean Werle

Commissioners Absent: Deb Henson, Justin Fermann

Staff: Walter Ramsey – Agent and Iliya Shumilov- Planning Intern

Mark Fairbrother called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2018

Motion made by Donna Francis to approve June 14, 2018 minutes. **Seconded** by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed unanimously**, Sean Werle abstaining.

Request for Certificate of Compliance: NOI #2016-01 by Lou Ekus 44 Center Street Montague, MA 01351.

Walter Ramsey requested on behalf of the applicant to table this matter. According to the agent, the work was completed in a professional manner in compliance with the Order. While on site visit, the applicant raised a concern over his ability to conduct ongoing maintenance of the pond and canal. Earlier in the day, the agent found out some information that Mr. Ekus may want to consider before issuing the certificate. Mr. Ekus is currently out of country. There is still one year left on the current Order.

Chairman Fairbrother declared the matter tabled, pending further advisement from the applicant. No certificate of compliance was issued.

Annual re-organization of the Commission

Motion made by Alex Peterkin to nominate Mark Fairbrother as Chair of the Conservation Commission for FY19. **Seconded** by Addie Rose Holland. **Motion passed**. Mark Fairbrother abstained from the vote.

Motion made by Alex Peterkin to nominate Justin Fermann as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission for FY19. **Seconded** by Addie Rose Holland. **Motion passed**. Justin Fermann abstained from the vote.

Agent Updates:

a. Review of Eversource Vegetation Management Yearly Operational Plan (YOP)

As a follow up to last meeting, Walter Ramsey pulled the YOP and consulted with Alex Peterkin regarding flagging the work area. The Town's 45 day comment period has passed. The vegetation maintenance has not begun as of yet because they are apparently waiting on a determination from NHESP. Walter spoke to the consultant and Eversource to see how they will be responding to the residents (LaGoy) concerns regarding the

project complying with all local and state laws as well as the project being permissible and wetlands guidelines are followed. Walter suggested the Commission draft a letter to Eversource to notify when the project begins so that they can confirm the flagging and will check up on the work being done.

Motion made by Addie Rose Holland to approve a letter going from the Montague Conservation Commission to Eversource and ccing the Lagoy's under Mark Fairbrother' signature expressing concerns regarding vegetation management during their yearly operational plan and the Commission's plan on monitoring. **Seconded** by Sean Werle. **Motion passed.**

b. Sawmill River Wildlife Management Area- Fall 2018 Mowing Plan

There is a \$6,000 mitigation fund set up by National Grid for their work down at the Cabot Station power lines area. There is an agreement (through Spring 2020) between the Town which allows mowing in the North Street wildlife management area. The commission authorized the agent to solicit bids for mowing the northern half of the property this fall in accordance with the agreement.

c. Beaver Hollow/ Millers River Oxbow 113 acre parcel bought by Fish and Game

This 113 acre parcel has gone into permanent protection (Article 97) as a few weeks ago. It was previously owned by Rocky River Realty who sold it to Fish and Game which abuts the Waidlich property.

d. Consideration of potential land swap with Fish and Game of municipal land on the plains for a proposed municipal green cemetery site at Lower Meadow Road.

There has been some research done over the past year to find a green burial site within the Town of Montague- lead by the Cemetery Commission. A discussion with Fish and Game has resulted in them offering a 16 acre parcel of land at Lower Meadow Road. Fish and Game would be interested in swapping a 19 and 25 acre parcel that is municipally owned in the Montague Plains. The parcel is beautiful with open hayfields and a barn which is under ownership by Fish and Game. There is also a portion of the parcel that is wooded with the rest being active farm land that is currently leased to Red Fire Farm. The Agent wished to inform the Commission. No action was taken.

Motion made by Addie Rose Holland to adjourn the meeting at 7:27PM. **Seconded** Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed.**

Approved by: _____ Date: _____