

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday August 13, 2020- 6:30pm

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Commissioners Present: M. Fairbrother (Chair), S. Werle, D. Henson, D. Francis,

Absent: L. Reid, J. Fermann, A. Peterkin

Staff: Walter Ramsey (Conservation Agent)

6:31pm: Approval of Minutes: *MOTION by D. Hanson to approve the minutes of July 9, 2020. Second by D. Francis. VOTE: Francis (Y), Henson (Y), Werle (Y), Fairbrother (Y) MOTION PASSES*

6:32pm: PUBLIC MEETING: Request for Determination of Applicability #2020-04 filed by Ben Dryer to determine if the demolition of an abandoned house is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The property location is 46 Dry Hill Road and is identified as Assessor's Map 45 Lot 28.
Present: Ben Dryer and Tegan Jansen (landowner/applicants)

Ben Dryer described the demolition plans. The building has been abandoned for at least 20 years. Dryer is a licensed builder and will be demolishing the house himself without the use of heavy machinery. The house is without a proper foundation, but the old concrete block will be removed. All debris will be removed by Dryer. No excavation or backfill will be brought to the site and the area will revegetate. The new house will be completely outside of the buffer zone. Ramsey: The house is entirely within the buffer zone of the bank of an intermittent stream. The stream is currently dry, but it is mapped and we are currently in drought conditions. A map of the area shows the brook as a small tributary of Goddard Brook. Ben Dryer used the opportunity to advise the Commission that some trees (outside of the buffer zone) will be removed for the new structure in the coming weeks. Henson asks if the demolition and debris removal will loosen the soil before there is a chance to revegetation. Dryer intend to act soon during low-flow conditions. There was consensus that erosion control will not be needed unless conditions change drastically.

The commission requests 48 hour notice of the demolition in order to evaluate the need for erosion control. The Agent will monitor the site and Dryer will install erosion control only on an as-needed basis.

MOTION by Sean Werle to issue a (box 3) negative determination for RDA 2020-04 46 Dry Hill Road. Seconded by D. Francis. VOTE: Fairbrother (Y), Henson (Y) Francis (Y), Werle (Y), MOTION PASSES 6:44pm.

6:45 pm- Conservation Agent Updates

NOI 2018-05/ DEP File# 229-252- Sandy Lane Solar II- Construction. Ramsey reported that roughly an extra acre of trash was found outside the delineation of waste. A redesign of the cap will be needed. ConsCom will be engaged if resource area impacts changed.

EC#2020-01 Millers Falls Rd- M. Fairbrother asks for an update on the broken pipe on **Millers Falls Road**. Ramsey reports that the DPW' temporary stop-gap measures approved through and Emergency Cert in May have failed. Engineers are preparing a cost/scope of work. FirstLight is preparing to send a letter to the Town requesting they do something about the erosion situation.

Sean Werle requested that Commission communications be sent to his new email address. Records will be updated.

6:50PM MOTION by S. Werle TO ADJURN by Seconded by D. Francis. VOTE: Fairbrother (Y), Henson (Y) Francis(Y), Werle (Y) MOTION PASSES MEEING IS ADJURNED.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____