

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday November 12, 2020- 6:30pm

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Commissioners Present: M. Fairbrother (Chair), S. Werle, J. Fermann, L. Reid

Absent: D. Henson, D. Francis

Staff: Walter Ramsey (Conservation Agent)

6:30pm: *Approval of minutes was tabled for review by a full commission:*

No public hearings or meetings were scheduled

6:31pm: Agent Report:

- Ratify Emergency Certificate (EC 2020-03) issued to Montague Center Water Department to replace failed water line under Sawmill River at Meadow Road.

Agent reported that project has been completed. Work timeframe was delayed due to ledge and mechanical issues. All work occurred in the disturbed roadway ROW and was on the outer limited of the riverfront area. Agent inspected site several times and the site was always well maintained in terms of erosion and sedimentation control. Vehicles were stored outside the Riverfront Area.

MOTION to ratify EC 2020-03 by J. Fermann. Seconded by L. Reid. VOTE: Werle- AYE, Fermann- AYE, Reid- AYE, Fairbrother- AYE. Motion passed unanimously.

- Millers Falls Road Embankment updates

Agent visited site with DPW superintendent and representatives from First light. Photographs were shared (included as exhibit). The work appears to be performing to its desired effect. The end of the outlet pipe does appear to be outside the riverfront area. Firstlight will be asking town for as-built survey and to inform relevant agencies of the work that occurred.

- Correspondence regarding offer to donate a parcel as conservation land (Map 40 lot 17) 6 acres off Lake Pleasant Road.

Commission received a letter (attached as exhibit) asking to engage in conserving a parcel of land beign offered to the town. The parcel, while adjacent to the Plains WMA, has little conservation value to the town. It is unbuildable and inaccessible. There was generally agreement that either Fish and Game or an abutter would be a better suited to be a steward of the 6 acre property.

MOTION to pass on this initial offer to take care and custody of Map 4 Lot 17 by J. Fermann. Seconded by L. Reid. VOTE: Werle- AYE, Fermann- AYE, Reid- AYE, Fairbrother- AYE. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Consider contributing wetlands impacts mitigation funds toward engineering to replace an undersized culvert near 29 Ferry Road, supporting a tributary to the Sawmill River.

Agent proposes advancing a culvert replacement project for an undersized culvert for a tributary to the Sawmill River. This has been on the DPW's radar for 3 years due to seasonal flooding created by the culvert. This is mapped priority habitat and overall appears to have a high habitat value. Agent received a quote for phase I services to include project research, survey and base plan preparation, hydrologic analysis, and an wetlands delineation for \$5,000. The Commission is comfortable with proceeding would like to see additional quotes.



MOTION to authorize up to \$5,000 toward initial engineering and data gathering for the culvert near 29 Ferry Road by J. Fermann. Seconded by S. Werle. VOTE: Werle- AYE, Fermann- AYE, Reid- AYE, Fairbrother- AYE. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION by TO ADJOURN S. Werle by Seconded by J. Fermann VOTE: Werle- AYE, Fermann- AYE, Reid- AYE, Fairbrother- AYE. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____