

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday February 10, 2022- 6:30pm

Meeting held via ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother, Anthony Reiber, Sean Werle, Toby Carter, Margaux Reckard, Al Averill, Sean Werle.

Absent: Donna Francis

Staff: Walter Ramsey

6:30PM Approval of Minutes *MOTION by J. Fermann to accept the minutes of January 13, 2022. Seconded by M., Reckard. VOTE: Fairbrother (AYE), Reiber (AYE), Averill (AYE), Fermann (AYE), Carter (AYE), Reckard (AYE). MOTION PASSES.*

Review of work done under RDA 2020-02- Fall Farm- Old Sunderland Road

The Commission is in receipt of a letter from the Sunderland CC regarding infractions on the Sunderland side of the property. On February 7, 2022 The Chair of the Conservation Commission and Agent visited Falls Farm to follow-up on the cutting authorized in a Determination of Applicability issued May 18, 2020. We observed one area of concern within the Montague Conservation Commission's jurisdiction involving the tributary between the two agricultural fields.

At the site visit, the following was observed:

- evidence of recent tree removal within 25' of the stream
- limited slash located within 25' of the stream
- stockpiling of timber within 25' of the stream

A letter was drafted to be sent to the property owner by the Agent. The Commission reviewed the letter

J. Fermann gives small edits and a clarification regarding the definition of term "bank."

T. Reiber asks about the erosion risk of that stream. Mark Fairbrother is concerned about erosion and by one felled tree that is acting as a "dam."

T. Carter asks if they used machinery to cross the stream. The Agent responds that about 300 yards upstream (in Sunderland) they filled in the stream with stumps as way for machinery to cross the stream.

M. Reckard asks if landowner will understand the site work as described in the letter. The Agent intends to walk the site with the landowner.

The letter will be edited by the Conservation Agent as directed and sent to the landowner.

Preview of upcoming municipal permits and CY22 construction projects

The South Ferry Road culvert is in the design phase. The Town will apply for an NOI in the next three months.

The Town has extended its contract with its engineering firm to design the closeout items at the burn dump, as mandated by the DEP. These items will likely become an amendment to the Order of Conditions before the project is closed-out.

The Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge was completed this fall. The final sign off on vegetation and erosion will be in April/ May.

The State funded Montague City Flooding Relief project will go to bid in March. Construction will start this summer. The project that was permitted in 2019 will involve dredging a ¼ mile channel and re-establishing a floodplain with wetland plantings.

Conservation Commission appointee to the Comprehensive Plan Commission

Agent provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan update process and the recruitment of citizen advisors. Ideally, this group would have at least one volunteer to act as a liaison for the Conservation Commission. Several commissioners expressed interest and requested more information that Walter will provide via email.

MOTION by J. Fermann to ADJURN Seconded by A. Reiber VOTE: Fairbrother (AYE), Reiber (AYE), Averill (AYE), Fermann (AYE), Carter (AYE), Reckard (AYE), Werle (AYE) MEETING ADJURN 7:16pm.

Exhibit: Letter to Dr. James Arcoleo dated 2/14/2022 (RDA file 2020-02)