

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday August 11, 2022- 6:30pm

Meeting Held In-Person AND via ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother, Anthony Reiber, Sean Werle, Toby Carter, Sean Werle, Margaux Reckard, Al Averill, Justin Fermann. **Absent:** Donna Francis. **Staff:** Walter Ramsey- Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

6:30PM: MOTION by S. Werle to accept the minutes of May 12, 2022. Seconded by A. Reiber. VOTE: Fairbrother (AYE), Werle (AYE), Reiber (AYE), Averill (AYE), Fermann (AYE), Carter (AYE), Reckard (AYE). MOTION PASSES.

6:30PM: MOTION by M. Reckard to accept the minutes of June 9, 2022. Seconded by S. Werle. VOTE: Fairbrother (AYE), Werle (AYE), Reiber (AYE), Averill (AYE), Fermann (Abstain), Carter (AYE), Reckard (AYE). MOTION PASSES.

6:32 PM: Agent Report/ Project Updates

NOI 2018-05-Sandy Lane Solar project filed by Town of Montague

The Agent and a group of Commissioners (AA, TR, TC, MR) had an opportunity to inspect the site and the two specific areas subject to final corrective design.

It was evident that an engineer should explain the hydrology of the area and the stormwater plan. The Conservation Agent will request that the engineers provide a report or visit the Conservation Commission to explain the storm water situation.

NOI 2022-01 8 West Chestnut Hill Rd (Brule)

The Agent reported that construction is underway for the permitted single family house. The erosion control is installed and has been inspected by the Agent. A restoration plan is required under the Order of Conditions. That is due within the month and is expected to be reviewed at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

NOI 2022-02 82 Chestnut Hill Loop. (Gorman)

The Conservation Agent inspected the dredging of the fire pond. All of the water was pumped into a field. An adjacent field received the dredged materials. All work is well outside of a resource area with no runoff into the brook. The pond will be refilled after the drought is over. The Montague Center Fire Department will clean out their pipe while the pond is still drained.

RDA 2021-07 Newton Street Walking Street, Miller Falls

There is now 300 feet of accessible trail near the Millers River. People have been using the trail system for walks and dog walking.

RDA 2021-03 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Project

The State announced that they will replace 3 bridges in the Canal District over the next 5 years- the Green Bridge, White Bridge and Sixth Street Bridges. The Montague Select Board halted the Fifth Street Bridge

Replacement Project, however the intersection and drainage are currently being reconfigured. There is no problem with run off in the canal.

RDA 2021-08 Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Construction of the shell of the building has started. The project is within 50 feet of isolated non-jurisdictional wetlands. Erosion control has been inspected and monitored by the agent.

Knotweed Management on town of Montague Rights of Way/ Land

Concern was raised by a local farmer that the Montague DPW was using herbicides to mitigate knotweed. The DPW has not filed anything with the Conservation Commission, but the Agent is not sure if they applied to a State agency. There is evidence of some spraying was within Resource Areas. An RDA should typically be filed. The Agent will send a correspondence to DPW to make sure they file proper permits prior to deployment of any more herbicides in Montague. T. Carter want them to consider best practices.

The Commission agreed that knotweed is growing problem, but they are not sure about the best way to address it in a comprehensive manner. There are other non-herbicide treatments that can work as well. The town may need to develop a management plan.

Review of Conservation Commission Accounts

Conservation Fund: \$16,554

Wetlands Protection Fund: \$19,429

Conservation Mitigation Impact Fund: \$11,000

Handout entered into the minutes

J. Fermann asks if anyone on the commission can do wetlands delineations. The Agent responds “no” but someone could be trained for certification from the Wetlands Fund.

Brainstorm Commission priorities for FY23

-Addressing Invasive Species: Knotweed, Lantern Beetles, Emerald Ash Borers

- Stewardship of watershed lands owned by the TF Fire District. Build a relationship with the new Water Superintendent.

MOTION by S. Werle to ADJOURN Seconded by T. Reiber. VOTE: Fairbrother (AYE), Reiber (AYE), Fermann (AYE), Carter (AYE), Reckard (AYE), Werle (AYE). MEETING ADJURN 7:22pm.