

Montague Conservation Commission

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 Ext. 207

Fax: (413) 863-3222

Email: planner@montague-ma.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday September 8, 2022- 6:30pm

Meeting Held In-Person AND via ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother, Toby Carter, Margaux Reckard, Donna Francis. ZOOM: Sean Werle, Justin Fermann.

Absent: Al Averill, Anthony Reiber.

Staff: Walter Ramsey, Conservation Agent.

6:30PM: Approval of the August 11, 2022, minutes were tabled until the October meeting.

6:30 PM- PUBLIC MEETING: Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) #2022-02 filed by **Edward Stone to replace an existing 6” common sewer line serving 18, 24, and 38 West Street**. Portions of the work will occur within wetlands and bank resource areas. The affected property is 18 West St (Parcel ID 42-0-103).

Present: Ed Stone

Ed Stone is a professional excavator. Stone describes his sewer line project, including the history of his sewer line. Stone wants to tie his sewer into the new Town line on School Street. This project would cut the length of his run-in half. The work is technically above the resource area but inside the buffer zone.

The Conservation Agent shows a map of West Street. Currently Stone is tied into a common sewer line with three houses, which runs down Orchard Road into the Main Street sewer connection. The wetlands in question drains a small intermittent stream. There is an elevated manmade berm that crosses the stream, also described by Stone as a dyke. The existing sewer line is half buried and crosses the stream. Stone’s plan is for the new pipe to be embedded into the berm and span the stream. There will be no impact in the stream. Minimal trees need to be removed for the mini excavator to install the pipe. The old sewer pipe will be left in place and natural vegetation will eventually fill the area.

M. Fairbrother asks how Stone would fill the gap in the dyke. Stone responds that a 12” cast iron pipe will span that space with a 6” sewer pipe inside.

T. Carter asks if he will use footings? Stone responds “no” but that both ends would be solid.

M. Reckard asks about the length of exposed pipe. Stone responds about 14 feet.

M. Fairbrother asks if the pipe will freeze. Stone responds that it is not supposed to happen.

MOTION by M. Reckard to issue a negative Determination of Applicability (Box 3) (RDA) #2022-02 filed by Edward Stone to replace an existing 6” common sewer line serving 18, 24, and 38 West Street. Portions of the work will occur within wetlands and bank resource areas. The affected property is 18 West St (Parcel ID 42-0-103). Seconded by D. Francis. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Donna Francis (AYE), J. Fermann (AYE). MOTION PASSES

6:50PM Administrative Business

- Request for Certificate of Compliance NOI 2022-02 Gorman - 82 Chestnut Hill Loop
The pond was not filled because the Town is in drought status. COC not issued at this time.
- Review wetlands restoration plan submittal for NOI 2022-01 Brule- West Chestnut Hill Road
The Agent has copies of the plan for the Commission to review. The Brule’s completed the plan themselves which is not to scale. M. Reckard asks about the removal of the piles. M. Fairbrother thinks that the ruts also need

to be filled. The Conservation Commission has required a more specific, plotted plan which includes delineation in the field. Agent to follow up with Mr. Brule

- Eversource MEPA filing (EEA#16570) Open comment period through 9/23/22
Commission had the opportunity to review the filing notice. A Wetlands permit will be forthcoming. The Commission decided to withhold comments until the filing is before them.
- Delegate to the Town Planner/Conservation Agent Search Committee
Mark Fairbrother will represent the Conservation Commission. He has served on several of these over the years.
- An emergency order was issued to Eversource to remove the beaver damn from 212 Montague City Road. The Agent shows a map of the wetlands system and the location of the beaver dams. Flooding and utility infrastructure issues were happening. A permit from the Board of Health was issued to trap the beavers. *MOTION by Toby Carter to ratify the Emergency Order Montague City Road. Seconded by Margaeux Rechar. VOTE Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Donna Francis (AYE), J. Fermann (AYE). MOTION PASSES.*
- Red Fire Farm received a grant to maintain an irrigation ditch. The Conservation Agent made a site visit to the property. The Agent confirms the existence of a manmade pond. Red Fire wants to dredge the pond with an excavator. Debris will be left on the banks of the pond. The Agent believes that the work is allowable under the agriculture exemption and had given them approval to proceed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by M. Rechar. Seconded by D. Francis. MOTION PASSES 7:35.