

# Montague Conservation Commission

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday November 17, 2022- 6:30pm**

Meeting Held In-Person AND via ZOOM

**Commissioners Present:** Mark Fairbrother, Margaux Reckard, Donna Francis, Sean Werle, Justin Fermann, Anthony Reiber, Al Averill. **Absent:** Toby Carter. **Present:** Tessa Dowling (Mount Grace Trust)

**Staff:** Suzanne LoManto Assistant Planner

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

*Motion by S. Werle to approve the minutes of August 11, 2022 with edits with grammatical changes. Seconded by T. Reiber. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Donna Francis (ABSTAIN), Sean Werle (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), MOTION PASSES 6:33pm.*

MOTION by to M. Reckard to approve the meeting minutes of September 8, 2022 Seconded by S. Werle. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Donna Francis (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Anthony Reiber (ABSTAIN), MOTION PASSES 6:35pm.

**Updates:** NOI 2020-01/DEP file 229-0261 - Brule West Chestnut Hill Road: Review updated Wetlands Plan and restoration activity status. The Commission acknowledges photos submitted by Bill Brule which present progress on his project but there is no conversation.

**Vote to request \$10,000** funding to Waidlich Conservation Fund for FY24 Annual Town Meeting

J. Fermann asks if there is an immediate need for these funds.

Chair responds "no." The ask is to replenish the fund.

M. Reckard mentions the upcoming amendments to the State Public Lands Preservation Act and possible implications to Montague.

MOTION by J. Fermann to request \$10,000 funding to Waidlich Conservation Fund for FY24 Annual Town Meeting Seconded by M. Reckard. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Donna Francis (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), MOTION PASSES 6:40pm

### **Town Planner/ Conservation Agent Hiring status**

Three candidates were interviewed and will be discussed in an upcoming meeting with the goal of having a new planner in place January 1, 2023. The Commission is enthusiastic about the quality of the candidates and the speed of the hiring process.

### **Topics not anticipated** within 48 hour posting requirements

Tessa Dowling (Mount Grace Trust) makes a request to the Montague Conservation Commission for a site visit to Meadow Road. She gives an overview of a project to construct a new canoe/kayak boat access with two parking spots. The area has been marked with orange flagging. She will be submitting an NOI for the January agenda.

The Assistant Planner requests images before the snow season as a reference. Tessa agrees.

J. Fermann asks about the exact location. Tessa will send the parcel numbers.

The Chair describes the location- north of Gunn Brook.

T. Dowling shares a map of Meadow Rd. and project location with is on the southern boundary of the stream. Tessa will submit the formal NOI and an email with several dates for the Commission to meet- probably a weekend.

T. Reiber asks about what planning has been done. Tessa Dowling responds that a volunteer/partner from Fish and Wildlife Fishing and Boat Access Office drew the plans and set the orange flags.

MOTION by D. Fracis ADJURN by SECONDED M. Fairbrother. VOTE: *Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Donna Francis (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE),*  
*MEETING ADJURNED 7:02pm*