



**TOWN OF
MONTAGUE
MASSACHUSETTS**

TOWN HALL
One Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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Planner@montague-ma.gov

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 12, 2024 6:30 PM
Town Hall Annex: Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via Zoom**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mark Fairbrother (Chair), Anthony Reiber, Toby Carter, Margaux Reckard, Justin Fermann, Sean Werle

ABSENT: Donna Francis, Al Averill

STAFF: Maureen Pollock (Staff Liaison, Planner/Conservation Agent)

ALSO PRESENT: Will Quale

MINUTES:

Approval of 2024 Meeting Minutes from July 18, July 30, and August 8 were tabled.

OLD BUSINESS:

Falls Farm Violations– Old Sunderland Road (Parcels #50-0-18), property owner: James Arcoleo; Old Sunderland Road (Parcel #50-0-05, property owner: Falls Farm LLC; and Meadow Road (Parcel #50-0-04), Montague, Property owner: Falls Farm LLC

Fairbrother reports that MassDEP has taken over the case and issued enforcement orders to James Arcoleo/Falls Farm LLC. A copy of the State enforcement order was emailed to the Commissioners.

MOTION by M. Reckard to retract the Conservation Commission's July 30, 2024 enforcement order to Old Sunderland Road (Parcels #50-0-18), property owner: James Arcoleo; Old Sunderland Road (Parcel #50-0-05, property owner: Falls Farm LLC; and Meadow Road (Parcel #50-0-04), Montague, Property owner: Falls Farm LLC. Seconded by J. Fermann. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE). MOTION PASSES (5-0) 6:26pm.

Updates

The Conservation Agent reports that Montague's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) expired in January 2024. The Agent submitted a Planning Assistance Grant application to the Mass Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) in June for technical assistance with updating the OSRP. The Agent is waiting for the awards to be announced.

The Agent explains what is an OSRP. An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is a seven-year action plan to manage, protect, and improve Montague's conservation and recreation resources. This plan is informed by a thorough public participation process to ensure it reflects the needs and interests of our community. Once a new plan is complete and approved by the Massachusetts Executive Office of

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS), Montague becomes eligible to apply for a variety of grants to help fund the implementation of the plan. The Planning & Conservation Department and the Recreation Departments are responsible for updating the plan every seven years and overseeing its implementation.

Toby Carter mentions that at the four corners area of East Taylor Hill Road and Old Sunderland Road, there are for sale sides on three corners and the properties might be considered for conservation with the Waidlich Memorial Conservation Fund. The Agent asks for some clarification about how land is transferred from private landowners into conservation. The Chair gives the Agent an example citing the Commission's authority to conserve land, as the funds were previously appropriated through Town Meeting. A private group working with nonprofit agencies is looking to purchase the properties for conservation, as reported by a member of the public – Nell Wright.

Mark Fairbrother reports that the bridge project on South Street is big and underway. The South Ferry Road bridge, by comparison, is much smaller (it's a culvert replacement project). The Conservation Agent reports that Tighe and Bond (who designed the culvert replacement) are having check-ins with the DPW regarding installation.

Mark Fairbrother reports an invasive species, "Mile a Minute" weed, in Montague Center (Ferry Road and Meadow Road). The *Greenfield Recorder* did a story about "Mile a Minute" a few months ago.

ADJOURN:

MOTION by A. Reiber Adjourn. Seconded by M. Reckard. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE), S. Werle (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE). MOTION PASSES (6-0) 6:58pm