



TOWN OF
MONTAGUE
MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN HALL
One Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
(413) 863-3200 ext. 112
Planner@montague-ma.gov

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

Thursday, May 8, 2025 6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via Zoom

To join meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85790607802?pwd=cdOUWqusDRa53c4OiPIxvTbIVCzEvW.1>

Dial: (309) 205-3325

Meeting ID: 857 9060 7802

Passcode: 149234

This meeting is being held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.

1. ROLL CALL:

2. MINUTES:

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2025

3. PUBLIC MEETING:

- a. **RDA #2025-02 - Request for Determination of Applicability**, filed by **Brett Grout c/o Franklin Regional Transit Authority**, to determine whether the construction of an 14' x 20' concrete block, for a covered salt storage shed, within 100-foot buffer zone at **3 Sandy Lane (Parcel #21-0-149)** is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.
- b. **RDA #2024-07 – First Light Power** – For the review and approval of the submitted planting plan & list, pursuant to condition 1, from the previously issued Negative Determination #2, located at landscape garden beds at the Turners Falls Fishway, 2 Gatehouse Drive (Parcel #04-0-0005) and 0 First Street (Parcel #04-0-0007)

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Announce receipt of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Planning Grant of \$34,000 – For technical assistance in preparing Town's ten-year Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).
- b. Announce notification of 2025 Yearly Operational Plan & Vegetation Management Plan for: New England Central Railroad; and Berkshire & Eastern Railroad
- c. Possible canoe/kayak access proposal at 0 Meadow Road (Parcel #50-0-2A).
Conservation Commission site visit scheduled at 9:30am on May 15, 2025
- d. Connecticut River Flood Resilience Roundtable Series:
2025

MARK FAIRBROTHER, CHAIR MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Meeting #1 – Thursday, April 24, 9:30 to noon - Connecticut River communities sharing on flood resilience challenges and responses
- Meeting #2 – Thursday, May 8, 9:30 to noon - Status of current and projected flood flow mapping for Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties and recommendations in the meantime
- Meeting #3 – Thursday, May 29, 9:30 to noon - The role of floodplains and wetlands: Are there ways these natural assets can help us become more flood resilient and what might be needed to enhance function and protection?
- Meeting #4 – Thursday, October 23, 9:30 to noon - Strengths and vulnerabilities of the Army Corps of Engineers flood management system in the upper Connecticut River watershed
- Meeting #5 – Thursday, November 13, 9:30 to noon - Learning from Vermont: flood resilience response and nature-based solutions in the wake of devastating events.

2026:

- Meeting #6 – Thursday, January 22, 9:30 to noon - Tools and lessons from project work on the Deerfield River
- Meeting #7 – Thursday, February 26, 9:30 to noon – Sharing from community listening sessions and identifying where there may be opportunities to form a more holistic and integrated response.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Project Updates – RDA #2023-06 - Previously issued Negative Determination #5 to FirstLight Power Services LLC (applicant) for the project at Cabot Station Power Canal Left Dike off of Montague City Road and Cabot Street.
 - i. FirstLight intends to return to project site (Cabot Station Power Canal Left Dike off of Montague City Road and Cabot Street) on May 12 and will need to close the bike path until the work is complete – estimate is 2-4 weeks.
- b. 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
 - i. Updates and public comments, if any.

6. OTHER BUSINESS NOT ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS:

7. ADJOURN: