



**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 MINUTES**

Thursday, July 10, 2025 6:30 PM

**Annex Meeting Room, Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via Zoom
Meeting was recorded**

6:31PM: ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Donna Francis

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

ALSO PRESENT: Matt Lord, Chelsey Little (Montague Clean Water Facility), Ward Smith, Carol Baker

MOTION by M. Reckard accept the meeting minutes of May 8, 2025 Seconded by J. Fermann. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE). MOTION PASSES (7-0) 6:34pm

MOTION by A. Reiber accept the meeting minutes of June 12, 2025 Seconded by M. Reckard. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE). MOTION PASSES (7-0) 6:36pm

PUBLIC MEETING: RDA #2025-03 - Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Matt Lord to determine whether the proposed repair or replacement of the existing driveway serving an existing single-family home at 59 Center Street (Parcel #44-0-51) is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.

Matt Lord describes the project; the driveway is in disrepair and ruts have emerged making it hard to plow. Lord wants to get the driveway down to grade and put down some fresh gravel. A site visit was conducted. The Conservation Agent was on the property and measured that the edge of the driveway is 114 feet from the Sawmill River. This is an exempt activity under the Wetlands Protection Act. The project is within the buffer zone and riverfront but not the flood plain.

MOTION by S. Werle to issue a Negative Determination Box 5 for RDA #2025-03 - Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Matt Lord to determine whether the proposed repair or replacement of the existing driveway serving an existing single-family home at 59 Center Street (Parcel #44-0-51) is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Seconded by M. Reckard. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE). MOTION PASSES (7-0) 6:41pm

The Conservation Agent will sign on behalf of the Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING: NOI #2025-02 (DEP #229-0267) - Notice of Intent, filed by the Town of Montague Clean Water Facility for rehabilitation work of the Montague Center Pump Station located at 3 Main Street (Parcel #43-0-160) within buffer zone and 200-foot Riverfront Area.

Chelsey Little describes the project. The components of this pump station are original to 1980 with the exception of the fence which was replaced earlier in the year.

Little shows the plan of the planned changes which include moving the generator (including fuel oil tank) outdoors, which gives the operators more space indoors. They will be adding a concrete pad for the generator. Other improvements to the pump station are indoors.

Ward Smith continues the project description. The project was filed under the Limited Project Provision for 1053 3D for sewer water and natural gas lines. There are general conditions for this provision. It is within 100 feet of the river. They do not want to do planting because vegetation would be difficult to maintain. The project adds 102.5 of impervious surface. Mark Stinson thinks the project is within priority habitat. Smith thinks the work is exempt and sent that information to Mark Stinson who did not reply.

Carol Baker (abutter) is concerned about the length of construction. Little replies that the exterior work will start in the next few months and the work will be done before October. Work will happen during daylight hours (7am-2pm). A mini excavator and maybe a jackhammer will be used. It is an “inhouse” project and the length of the construction will depend on the availability of the workers. Baker asks about the sound of the outdoor generator. Little responds that the new generator has a built-in noise attenuator. Adding slats to the fence could also help with noise. Little is happy to work with neighbors if there are issues.

The Conservation adds a condition regarding erosion control and silt fencing. No trees will be cut.

MOTION by J. Fermann to APPROVE AS A LIMITED PROJECT WITH CONDITIONS NOI #2025-02 (DEP #229-0267) - Notice of Intent, filed by the Town of Montague Clean Water Facility for rehabilitation work of the Montague Center Pump Station located at 3 Main Street (Parcel #43-0-160) within buffer zone and 200-foot Riverfront Area. Seconded by S. Werle. Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE). MOTION PASSES (7-0) 6:57pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN by A. Reiber. Seconded by S. Werle. VOTE: Mark Fairbrother (AYE), Al Averill (AYE), Anthony Reiber (AYE), Sean Werle (AYE), Margaux Reckard (AYE), Justin Fermann (AYE), Toby Carter (AYE). MOTION PASSES (7-0) 6:58pm

