

Charlestown Conservation Commission meeting 21 May 18

Members Present: Jim Fowler, Dick Holmes, Steve Neill (ex officio), Ruth Pratt, Dick Lincourt

Alternate Members Present: Donna Bascom, Dean Bascom

Guests Present: Jim McClammer, Albert St. Pierre, Carol St. Pierre.

Called order 7:00 PM by Dick Holmes Chair

Dean Bascom seated for Gabe Bailey, Donna Bascom seated for Mike Francis

Minutes of 16 Apr 18 approved as amended

- 1) Minor Impact Wetlands Application – St Pierre Inc – Gowen Crossing Road, North Charlestown. Dick Holmes reviewed the application. Replace existing home with a commercial building which will require widening the access road, and installing a new 90 ft, 30 in diameter culvert. Dick Holmes presented map from the application, Dick Lincourt showed map from Planning Board. Jim McClammer also presented maps. Dick Holmes questioned Albert St. Pierre of why the new culvert would not be connected to the existing culvert under RT12A. Mr. St. Pierre does not want the liability the state called for if the RT 12A culvert fails. He continued that the buyer of the property (Bob Beaudry) does not want the property if he cannot access the southern portion. St. Pierre Inc will otherwise use the access to reach existing hay field. Dick Holmes also questioned why a 30' wide road. Answered for safety of maneuvering. Jim McClammer also asked why 30' road. St. Pierre answered to maneuver trucks and not dump snow in wetland. Albert St Pierre also let us know that the area is zoned for commercial use. Also added that Beaudry wants to move his trucking company off the Old Claremont Road. Most in favor of that. Steve Neill explained that Beaudry is trying to separate their businesses. Jim McClammer brought up that the existing house is a historic site and needs special permission to remove. ConCom members mentioned that the discussion has wandered and that this is not related to the wetlands application. The purpose of the meeting is to review the wetlands portion of the application. After members discussion, motion made and passed to notify DES that the CCC has no concerns about this application. Steve Neill abstained from the vote.
- 2) Jim McClammer – a) told us that he had been appointed by the governor to the Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC) as the New Hampshire rep in the Mount Ascutney Region River Subcommittee. b) The Rt 12 widening project is part of their responsibility. He told us that Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) money, \$1.2 million, was available for town wetlands projects, such as culverts and bridge replacement, encouraged the town to apply for the money. Discussion on Pecor Road culvert or Burroughs Road bridge. Steve Neill told us that the town has tried but road-blocks keep getting in our way. Jim McClammer said he would help. Much discussion. c) Bellows Falls dam relicensing – CRJC is working on relicensing of three dams on the river. At issue now is the raising and lowering of the water level causing erosion. Dick Holmes discussed the erosion on Great Meadow. Jim McClammer is looking for volunteers to join the CRJC advisory committee. Dick Lincourt to send contact information to ConCom members.
- 3) South Hemlock Town Forest – Dick Holmes presented a map of the area, discussed walk he and Jim Fowler made through Vic St. Pierre's property as possible access to the town forest. One of the town forest lines is unmarked. Travis Royce said he would mark that for us. Once marked we'll get our forester out there to look over the property and make a

forest management plan. Once that is done we'll talk to Vic St. Pierre about a permanent access solution.

- 4) Nature Trail bridge repair – done
- 5) GreenUp Day – expect a \$62.57 bill from Ralph's. motion made and passed to pay Ralph's.
- 6) Adopt-a-highway – ConCom picked up 32 bags in our area and the total picked up was 84 bags.
- 7) Correspondence – Dick Holmes reviewed correspondence received since last meeting including:
 - a) notice from DOT that they plan on replacing culvert on RT 12A in south Charlestown.
 - b) DES letter asking for more information on the Great River Hydro dredge and fill application at Lower Landing for the boat landing.
 - c) intent to excavate for the RT 12 project
 - d) many intents to cut

Adjourned: 8:31 PM

Minutes submitted by Jim Fowler secretary

Minutes approved by Dick Holmes chair

Dick Holmes

date