

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016
6:30 P.M. – GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ANDREW MANKIN – Chairman
LISA BOZZUTO
JEFF COHEN
JESSICA DEZIECK
GAETAN LACHANCE
DAVID SHANAHAN
BILL BOYER
SPECIAL GUEST – MARK STINSON, DEP CIRCUIT RIDER
SHEP EVANS – CONSERVATION AGENT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mankin called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

WPA NOI 167-0369 from Dave Inglis of Mahaiwe Harvest located on South Main Street, Map 37 Lot 93 for new agriculture in the resource area of the Green River, a NHESP habitat and a 100 year flood plain. No news. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to continue to March 23, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Unanimous approval.**

Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates LLC for Jeanne Chesanow, property at #28 Blue Hill Road and #5 Roger Road, Map 37 Lots 1B and 2. Response to an Enforcement Letter dated September 22, 2015 and an update on the anticipated planting plan to be mutually agreed by the abutting property owners. Shep Evans reported that the planting plan has been mutually agreed subject to cost, and is now out to suppliers for pricing. Ms. Stockman expects to present final agreed plan at the next meeting. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to continue to March 23, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Unanimous approval.**

WPA NOI 167- 0399 from S-K Design Group, Inc. for 79 Bridge Street Realty, LLC. Property is located at 79 Bridge Street, Map 19 Lot 139. The project includes development of a new hotel, parking and driveway areas, walkways and utilities. The project falls within the Riverfront Resource Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and the Buffer Zone. S-K Design Group announced that the applicant has decided to put a perpetual conservation restriction on 8.3 Acres of developable land adjacent to the Housatonic River in back of the applicant's Fairfield Inn on Stockbridge Road as mitigation for the expanded impervious parking area at the proposed hotel. The improved landscaping and riverbank plantings along RiverWalk, including invasive exotic plant control, will constitute an improvement to the resource area rather than mitigation. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto to continue to March 23, 2016. Unanimous approval.**

WPA NOI 167-0400 submitted by Tata & Howard on behalf of the Great Barrington Fire District Water Department for the development of a new water supply source by drilling wells at 180 and 190 North Plain Road, Map 29 Lots 1 and 3. Jessica Dezieck recused herself from the hearing. The test well locations have been prioritized such that the first ones to be drilled will be out of or in the buffer zone to resource areas. The state mandated staff gauges will of course be installed by hand in the river and the nearby oxbow. In response to the Commission's concern with regard to the impact of various equipment tracking across the fields, the applicant agreed that it would employ some type of adequate matting to prevent any damage. If none of the early test wells are successful, the plan is to drill two test wells in the riverfront resource area. Comments have not yet been received from the Natural Heritage Program. **Motion by Lisa Bozzuto, seconded by Gaetan Lachance, to continue to March 9, 2016 at 6:00PM. Unanimous approval.**

WPA NOI 167-0401 submitted by Tighe & Bond, Inc. on behalf of the Town of Great Barrington DPW for the repair of an existing culvert and associated slope stabilization on George Street adjacent to the residence at #3 George Street, Map 11 Lot 61. Tighe & Bond presented comparative costs for alternative ways of fixing or replacing the culvert. The proposal is for the least expensive repair, which is to reline the culvert. Mr. Stinson made the point that, while the contemporary stream crossing standards might require a new bottomless culvert or a bridge, the cost of such a project could not be justified with any substantial upstream habitat improvements. He said that the smart thing was to save dollars when there is no significant habitat gain. Comments have not yet been received from the Natural Heritage Program. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to continue to March 9, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Unanimous approval.**

Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Tighe & Bond, Inc. on behalf of Mass Electric Co. for a proposed mid-span utility pole installation on the east side of River Street adjacent to the existing building at 16 River Street, Map 19 Lot 123. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to issue a Negative Determination #2. Unanimous approval.**

Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Berkshire Natural Resources Council for employing mechanical and chemical controls to reduce the presence of non-native, invasive plants to 5% of their current levels in the Riverfront Resource Area and adjacent lands, thereby improving the floodplain and meadow habitats of the Housatonic Flats Reserve. The property is located on Stockbridge Road, Map 29 Lot 40. Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restoration LLC explained the methodology of mowing the large invasive shrubs first and subsequently chemically treating the new growth that will follow. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to issue a Negative Determination #2. Unanimous approval.**

Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by William Nolan for the taking down of dead, dying and/or dangerous trees , some in the Buffer Zone of an intermittent stream at #31 Blue Hill Road, Map 36 Lots 35E, 35F & 35G. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to issue a Negative Determination #3. Unanimous Approval.**

Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by White Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Berkhill 11, LLC for the clearing of shrubs and trees within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 11 Crissey Road, Map 9 Lot 36-29. The applicant's engineer was unable to answer questions about the intended use of the subject cleared area or the methodology of maintaining the property after it is cleared. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to continue to March 23, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Unanimous approval.**

Miscellaneous matters:

Request for Certificate of Compliance from attorneys Cain Hibbard Myers for an Order of Conditions issued on 5/28/2009 (DEP File 167-0339) for the construction of a canoe launch area at 79 Bridge Street, Map 19 Lot 139. The canoe launch area was never built. **The Certificate was signed by all and will be hand delivered by Shep Evans.**

Discussion of an Enforcement Letter issued to James & Margaret Larkin on February 3, 2016 pertaining to the alteration of Flood Plain, Wooded Swamp, Riverfront Resource Area, Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat on 15.6 acres of land east of Route 7 adjacent to the confluence of the Green and Housatonic Rivers, Map 38 Lot 44. Mark Stinson advocated for the issuance of an Enforcement Order that is coordinated with an anticipated order from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. **The consensus of the Commission was that Shep Evans should coordinate with Natural Heritage and Mark Stinson and issue the Enforcement Order.**

Consideration of Special Permit Application of Tune Street for the relocation of its commercial business from 294 Main Street to the accessory building at 117 State Road and the construction of a new parking area containing 8 parking spaces to be located outside the riverfront resource area. **Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, that Shep Evans send to the Select Board and the Zoning Board a memorandum commenting that, after reviewing the application, the Commission finds that the project is outside of its jurisdiction. Unanimous Approval.**

Election of a new Chairman of the Great Barrington Conservation Commission. Andrew Mankin, who had previously advised the Commission of his intention to step down as Chairman, introduced Gaetan Lachance saying that Gaetan had been a chairman previously in Sheffield and that he had agreed to serve again in Great Barrington. **The**

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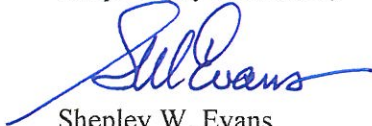
Commission voted unanimously to elect Gaetan Lachance as Chairman. Jess Dezieck will stay on as Vice-Chairman.

Citizen Speak Time: Lisa Marchetti and Chris Whiltshire addressed the Commission saying that they have an interest in working on getting rid of invasive species that are taking over parts of the McAllister Property. Jeff Cohen, on behalf of the Commission, volunteered to organize a group of stakeholders to start working on a plan for the property.

Approval of Minutes of the January 27, 2016 Conservation Commission meeting. Motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, to approve the minutes of the January 27th meeting as circulated. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment. On a motion by Jess Dezieck, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto, the Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shepley W. Evans
Conservation Agent