

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, August 23, 2017
6:30 P.M. – TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET**

PRESENT:

GAETAN LACHANCE
BILL BOYER
LISA BOZZUTO
JEFF COHEN
ANDREW MANKIN
DAVID SHANNIHAN

SHEP EVANS – CONSERVATION AGENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Gaetan LaChance 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. **Continued from August 28, 2013.**

Conservation Agent Shep Evans received an email from Mr. Inglis stating that he is looking into turning the property over to the Great Barrington Land Conservancy.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue **WPA NOI 167-0369** until the next meeting, September 27, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5 -0

WPA NOI 167- from Berkshire Engineering on behalf of Camp Institute of Living Judaism (Camp Eisner), property at 53 Brookside Rd, Map 38 Lot 11. The proposed work at Eisner Pond includes repair to a retaining wall, the dam outlet, and low level outlet structure and the inlet valve and removal of accumulated sediment. Continued from May 31, 2017 until September 27, 2017.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the WPA NOI until September 27, 2017

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0

WPA RDA from the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) The Applicant is seeking to construct a foot-bridge crossing an intermittent stream as part of a new trail connecting

the Monument Mountain trail system with a second new trail being developed leading from Housatonic to the area around Flag Rock. Map 35 Lots 18 & 19A.

Brian Westrick, Trail Maintenance Crew Leader for The Trustees of the Reservation presented to the Commission. Mr. Westrick said they plan to use rot resistant wood such as hemlock or black locust to anchor the bridge into ledge. The trail crew intends to begin construction of the bridge this fall or early spring. The Conservation Commission scheduled a site visit with Mr. Westrick for Monday, September 25, 2017 at 3:30pm.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the WPA RDA until the next meeting, September 27, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 5-0

- David Shannihan joined the meeting at 7:00PM.

Discussion of an enforcement letter issued to Marion Gilliam on April 6, 2017 concerning cutting, thinning and burning trees and understory vegetation on a 15 acre property on Monument Valley Road, Map 36 Lot 21. Berkshire Engineering will present and discuss the extent of alteration and suggested restoration ideas. **Continued from July 26, 2017.**

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the Enforcement Letter discussion until the next meeting, September 27, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Discussion of an Enforcement Order issued on March 4, 2016 pertaining to alterations to resource areas at the confluence of the Green and Housatonic Rivers (Map 38 Lot 44). Marc Volk of Foresight Land Services will discuss proposed restoration alternatives. **Continued from May 31, 2017.**

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the discussion of the Enforcement Order until the next meeting, September 27, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Discussion among the Commission and with Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restorations and others concerning habitat management, grant applications and other issues re: McAllister Wildlife Refuge.

Ms. Toro explained to the Commission that a priority for managing the McAllister Wildlife Refuge is to treat the knot weed with a wetland approved herbicide. Native Habitat restoration is going to donate their time to the Commission to effectively treat

suggested restoration ideas. **Continued from May 31, 2017 and, at the applicant's request, to be continued to July 26, 2017.**

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the WPA NOI until the next meeting.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Discussion of an Enforcement Order issued on March 4, 2016 pertaining to extensive alterations to resource areas adjacent to the confluence of the Green and Housatonic Rivers, Map 38 Lot 44. Marc Volk of Foresight Land Services will present and discuss proposed remediation and restoration activities. **Continued from May 31, 2017**

Marc Volk is still in the process of coming up with a feasible plan for the Larkin's that would also satisfy the Conservation Commission and Natural Heritage. Mr. Volk reported that the entire property is entirely under Natural Heritage's enforcement and is identified as a priority habitat. One possible solution would be for the Larkin's to donate the property to Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to continue the discussion until the next meeting, July 28, 2017.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Mark Volk also presented on the Enforcement Order issued to Richard Bourdon, 367 Park Street, Housatonic, MA. Mr. Volk chose the following species to replace what was removed near the Housatonic River; Box Elder, High Bush Blueberry variety, and Cottonwoods. Agent Evans requested that Mr. Volk send this via email so he can ensure that Mr. Bourdon was compliant.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to issue an Enforcement Order for 367 Park Street, Housatonic, MA with the condition that Mr. Volk submits a planting list to the Conservation Agent. The Commission approves the restoration plan as submitted with the provision that 75% survivability is achieved for the duration of five years. Documentation of the survival of the plantings will need to be submitted to the Conservation Commission.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Miscellaneous matters.

- **Review of Conservation Commission Roster** for Fiscal 2018.
The Conservation Commission reviewed and signed the roster for the 2018 fiscal year.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to approve the May 31, 2017 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

this invasive species. Another priority of Native Habitat Restorations and the Conservation Commission is to address the invasives and 'clean-up' the entrance to the Refuge area along Hayley Road. Ms. Toro said they were going to divide the project into two phases. Phase one will be to address the entrance and the fields. Phase two will be to address the wetlands, funding will determine the extent of what Phase two can achieve. Ms. Toro said that Native Habitat Restorations will provide the Commission with grant writing assistance. Jeff Cohen said he was in favor of Native Habitat applying for any grants they think the Commission might be eligible for. Mr. Cohen also suggested organizing a "Friends of McAllister" donation fund in order to raise money to fund these stewardship projects.

Lisa Bozzuto asked Ms. Toro what it means for an herbicide to be 'low toxicity?' Ms. Toro said that when the chemical was tested on mice it had a relatively low death rate. In relation to treating the knot weed with an herbicide Chairman, Gaetan LaChance asked if continuous mowing would work as a safer alternative. Ms. Toro said it wouldn't be as effective and they wouldn't reach the intended goal of ridding the Refuge of knot weed.

Will Conklin of Greenagers offered to provide maintenance and general stewardship of the Reserve. Mr. Conklin gave a preliminary estimate of \$5,000 for the cost of Greenagers services per season.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motions to approve moving forward with applying for the Forest Stewardship plan and moves to adopt the three priority areas for the commencement of the McAllister Reserve Restoration; Hedgerows at Hayley Rd, Hedgerow #2, Wetlands 0 & 12, and Forest 5,9, &10.

SECOND: Andrew Mankin

VOTE: 6-0

Issuance of an Enforcement Order to Richard Bourdon of the Berkshire Mountain Bakery at 367 Park Street, Housatonic (Map 4Lot 10) concerning restoration planting within the riverfront area next to the Housatonic River.

The Conservation Commission signed the Enforcement Order issued to Richard Bourdon of the Berkshire Mountain Bakery.

- Mr. Bellows requested a Certificate of Compliance from the Conservation Commission for a project at 21 North Plain Road. An Order of Conditions was issued in July of 2015 and the intended work never commenced.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin moved to approve and sign the Certificate of Compliance.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Citizen Speak Time: None.

Approval of Minutes for the July 26, 2017 Conservation Commission Meeting.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin motioned to approve the July 26, 2017 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Lisa Bozzuto

VOTE: 6-0

Adjournment: On a motion made by Andrew Mankin, seconded by Lisa Bozzuto the meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM with a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jurczyk

Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Jurczyk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.