Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ September 4, 2012

Present: Norman Davenport, Tom Miner, Allan Smith, Dave Thompson

Applicant: Steve Damiano, representing TransCanada

Public: (none)

The meeting was convened at 7:30 PM. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 6/5/2012 meeting were approved as amended, Motion by Allan seconded by Dave. (There was no meeting in July or August.)

**Mail/Announcements**

The Open Space Committee has asked the ConCom to be a co-sponsor for a public forum on the Shelburne Open Space Plan. The request was approved. The forum will be held October 24.

**Forest Cutting Plans**

A Forest Cutting Plan was received from Apex Orchard. Allan went over the plan and found no problems.

**Building Permits/BOH Reports**

The following Building Permits were reviewed and approved prior to the meeting:

* Sarah Beth Hannigan, 247 James Barnard Rd – add a covered porch and rear deck
* Karen Moore, 23 Maple St – rebuild and extend a deck at the rear of the house

**Public meeting**

RDA for TransCanada, 232 Main St (Route 112) – installation of new poles at Deerfield No. 4 building. (Prior to the meeting, members of the Commission did a site visit with Steve Damiano). The public meeting was opened at 7:45 PM. The utility plans to relocate the transmission wires connecting the generator units on the west side of the Deerfield River with the substation on Main Street. The existing wires and a dilapidated catwalk across the river will be removed. There may be need to trim back or possibly remove a tree close to the river to provide proper clearance from the new transmission lines. After a brief discussion, the Commission approved a Negative 2 Determination, Motion by Tom seconded by Norm. The public meeting was closed at 7:51 PM.

**New Business**

NOI from National Grid. The Commission has been informed that National Grid will be filing a Notice of Intent for proposed switchyard improvements to be done at the transmission substation at 232 Main St. (Commission members looked at the site following its site visit for TransCanada.) There was a discussion of appointing a member of the Commission to be the project manager whose responsibility will be contacts with the applicant, scheduling a site visit, and posting the required public hearing legal notice.

Mail process. There was a discussion of mail delivery problems. On two recent occasions, official notices that required Commission action came in, but the Commission was not alerted. It was agreed that a more formal process for notifying the Commission is needed. Tom was asked to contact Terry Mosher and request a meeting with the Selectboard to discuss solutions to the problem.

NOI fees. Currently, fees for NOIs received from applicants are deposited in the Town’s general fund. The state law states that such funds should be placed into the Wetlands Protection Fund, a separate account that may be used by the Commission at its discretion for administration of the Act. It was agreed to prepare a request to the Selectboard that it create such a separate fund.

There was a brief discussion of the processing fee for RDAs, which currently is $75.00. Tom asked whether a lesser fee might be sufficient to cover the town costs for legal notices and postage. It was the consensus that the current fee was justified. Unlike the NOI fee, the RDA fee does not have to be in a segregated account.

**Other Business**

Beaver dam risk. There was a discussion of a beaver dam located behind Dave Thompson’s property. Dave reported that the beavers appear to have left the site, leaving a large impoundment at risk of flooding downstream areas if the unmaintained dam were to fail. A past failure caused damage downstream as far as Route 2. The Board of Health can issue an emergency certificate to protect public health and safety. The ConCom would become involved if the dam were to be breached or removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Prepared and submitted by: Tom Miner, Member and Clerk