Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ May 9, 2017

Present: Norman Davenport, Steve McCormick, John Richardson

Absent: Allan Smith

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Josh Simpson

Chairman Norm Davenport convened the meeting at 7:36 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Guest Presentation**

Josh Simpson, one of the owners of the former Singley Building at 19-23, came to the Commission asking support for a state construction loan, which he is seeking. The building cannot be repaired, it must be demolished. At a cost of $1.5 million, Mr. Simpson and his partners hope to construct a new building, on the same footprint, which will have five apartments and three retail spaces. This state loan program will only be giving out eight loans for the construction of new buildings. Applications are due by May 24. The application asks that town boards be aware of the proposed projects. Mr. Simpson had provided wording for a letter of support from the Commission. As the building is only 87 feet from a waterway, the Commission will eventually be involved. While Commission members agreed that they do not usually get involved in such matters, they were willing write a letter saying that they were aware of the plans for the Singley Building, and as the structure falls into the boundaries of the Wetlands Protection Act, will consider the application, when it is presented.

A motion was made by Steve and seconded by John, to approve a letter of support, written by Clerk John Richardson, for Josh Simpson’s project

 Voting to approve: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstentions: None

**Approval of Minutes**

Steve, seconded by John, made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11.

Voting to approve: Norm, Steve, John

 Opposed: None

 Abstaining: None

**Correspondence**

A letter from Pan Am Railway had been received, which explained their annual herbicide spraying plans.

**Building Permits/ZBA Reports/Forest Cutting Plans**

Cutting plans were reviewed for Michael and Paul Butynski for Smead Hill Road; The Shelburne Falls Fire District for Call Road; and Ken Kaminsky for Skinner Road and Colrain-Shelburne Road.

The Commission had some questions concerning the Kaminsky plan, which indicated that some cutting would be taking place in a wetland. Steve will get more information about that from State Service Forester Alison Wright-Hunter.

**Old Business**

Norm did a site visit, on April 9, as required for the Certificate of Compliance for the New England Power Company project at 232 Main Street. Faye will send in the necessary paperwork.

The next meeting will be on June 13.

At 8:25 p.m. John, seconded by Steve, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant