Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ August 8, 2017

Present: Norman Davenport, Steve McCormick, Allan Smith, Ellen Jenkins

Absent: John Richardson

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Jim Burnham, Gary Root

Chairman Norm Davenport convened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Old Business**

Root Fire Pond

An RDA for the creation of a fire pond had been submitted. However, Allan had spoken with DEP and the project cannot go forward with just an RDA, since the pond has an inlet and an outlet. An NOI is needed. If the Fire District files the NOI it will not only show support for the project, but it will also eliminate the filing fee. The threshold of excavation is 100 cubic yards. Greater than that amount requires the Army Corp of Engineers to step in, along with more oversight, more regulations, and possibly additional fees. It was agreed that the Shelburne Fire District would be the applicant and would contact Bill Lattrell if his expertise was needed. It is estimated that following the clean out of the sludge and mud, 20,000 gallons of water will be added. In order to be advertised in time for the next meeting, the NOI must be filed by September 1.

**New Business**

Gould Fire Pond

The fire pond at Gould’s Sugarhouse has not been cleaned for 13 years. It is a primary source of water for firefighting in that area. An NOI for cleaning the pond will be filed with wording that would allow the NOI to be renewed in five years by submitting a letter. It was suggested that one NOI could be filed for all the town’s fire ponds to allow periodic maintenance, since all are existing fire ponds. Any new fire ponds would require an individual NOI but after that it could be grouped with the others to allow routine maintenance. Steve will check with Mark Stinson to see if grouping multiple existing fire ponds is allowed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Allan, seconded by Steve, made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18.

Voting to approve: Norm, Steve, Allan, Ellen

 Opposed: None

 Abstaining: None

**Correspondence**

Two letters were received from Mass DEP regarding Certificates of Compliance for various projects. A letter from Eversource notified the Commission of upcoming maintenance along an existing right of way. A letter from National Grid notified the Commission about upcoming maintenance work along an existing transmission line.

An invoice was received from Bill Lattrell whom the Commission had engaged with the understanding that the contractor or the state would pay for his services, related to the Colrain-Shelburne Road project. Both parties have refused to pay stating they were not notified ahead of time in the NOI.

A motion was made by Allan, seconded by Ellen, to approve the payment of $313.50 to Lattrell Engineering Consulting LLC.

Voting to approve: Norm, Steve, Allan, Ellen

 Opposed: None

 Abstaining: None

**Organizational Matters**

Ellen Jenkins was welcomed to the Commission. Her appointment had been approved by the Selectboard and she had been officially sworn in.

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

Various cutting plans had been submitted and were discussed.

The next meeting will be on September 12.

At 8:55 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