Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ November 13, 2018

Present: Norman Davenport, Ellen Jenkins, John Richardson

Absent: Steve McCormick, Allan Smith

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Mark Stinson, Alain Peteroy, Phil Lussier, Mark Shippee, Keith Nelson

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

**Minutes**

A motion was made by John, seconded by Ellen, to approve the minutes of September 11, 2018.

Voting in favor: Norm, Ellen, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**Organizational Matters/Mail**

The Commission reviewed an application for a Special Permit for 623 Mohawk Trail. The building, currently used as a commercial building, would be changed to a municipal building. The Commission signed a waiver of the 35-day review period.

Mail consisted of cutting plans.

Ellen has completed her Fundamentals course.

**Franklin Land Trust**

Alain Peteroy explained that FLT is working on a Conservation Restriction (CR) for 21.5 acres of what had been the Dean Farm. The late Charlie Cohn had purchased the property with the intent of conserving it. The CR is ready to close by the end of the year. It is a full gift by the Cohn family. A three-acre envelope, which includes the house and several barns, would not be a part of the CR. The FLT needs Conservation Commission approval for support of the municipal certification. This CR would allow agricultural activity, trails, and wildlife habitat. The property would stay on the tax rolls, classified as Chapter 61A. If the land were sold without a CR, it would likely become house lots. It was understood that this is perhaps the only way to keep the land open.

A motion was made by Ellen, seconded by John, to support the Conservation Restriction on the western 21.15 acres of the former Dean farm.

Voting in favor: Norm, Ellen, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**NOI Hearing for Bassett Road Bridge – 7:30 p.m.**

The Public Hearing was opened by Norm Davenport at 7:30 p.m. Abutters had been erroneously notified that the hearing was at 7:45 p.m., while the legal notice and meeting posting said 7:30 p.m. Mark Stinson said the legal notice is the official document.

The hearing was to consider replacement of the Bassett Road bridge over Dragon Brook. A temporary bridge has been in place for many months due to the failed beams on the old bridge. The existing abutments will be kept, but the south abutment needs repair.

There will be no way for the landowners to get to their home while the construction of the new bridge is ongoing. A temporary walkway will be created for the landowners, which will bridge the stream bank but will not be in the stream. Once started, the work will be expedited and should take about seven days. The plan is to advertise the job in February and start the construction in May, or later.

The temporary bridge will be removed as will the old bridge which is underneath it. Shielding will be in place to protect the stream from debris. The south abutment has a vertical crack. Sandbags will be used to dewater the area of the abutment and a sedimentation basin will be used.

A rare and endangered plant, the dwarf scouring rush, is thought to be in the area. Appropriate steps will be taken to protect the plant.

At 7:50 p.m. Ellen moved to close the hearing, this was seconded by John and unanimously approved.

It was decided that the NOI application covered all of the issues that might reasonably come up.

A motion was made by John, seconded by Ellen, to approve the project as presented and to issue an OOC for the Bassett Road Bridge project.

Voting in favor: Norm, Ellen, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**RDA Meeting – Shelburne Highway Dept., Mark Shippee, Bardwells Ferry Road – 8 p.m.**

Mark explained the plan to replace six culverts alongside a portion of Bardwells Ferry Road. Discussion followed on whether the culverts affected an intermittent stream or if the area was merely a ditch. A stream involves wetlands, while a ditch does not. The project would not start until spring. In the meantime, Mark Stinson will determine if a stream or a ditch is involved.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 11.

At 8:30 p.m. John, seconded by Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant