Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ April 13, 2021

Present: John Richardson, Steve McCormick, Ellen Jenkins, Norm Davenport

Absent: Allan Smith

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Kate Buttolph, Tim Coleman

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by John, seconded by Ellen, to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Ellen, to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021, with the addition of members who attended site visits. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**Mail**

Mail included several emails regarding a proposed trail near the Deerfield River. An RDA application has been received from Pan Am Railways. A notice of utility maintenance was received from National Grid.

**RDA Meeting – Mary Beth Forton and Tim Coleman, 39 Wilson Graves Road – 7:15 p.m.**

A single-story addition, of less than 600 square feet, to the existing house has been proposed. A corner of a deck, which is part of the proposed addition, will be within 100 feet of Hinsdale Brook. The area where the addition s planned is currently lawn, a garden bed, and a low rock wall. The deck will be on two piers. The grade slopes gradually to a retaining wall and then more steeply t the brook. The applicant described it as “tiers.” The excavation will be done on the existing lawn. The excavator is Dick Hillman. Norm disclosed that he works for Mr. Hillman. It is not expected that any excavation will be done in the buffer zone. The piers for the deck will be as far from the retaining wall a possible. Four trees will be removed along the buffer zone, with the largest being 12 feet in diameter.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the RDA Application of Mary Beth Forton and Tim Coleman as a Negative3 with the following conditions: 1) Work will proceed as outlined in the application; 2) No tree cutting will be done within 50 feet of the stream bank; 3) best management practices will be followed regarding silt fencing which will be in place on the stream (west) side of the project through the end of construction. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**Kate Buttolph – Mass Audubon**

Kate attended the meeting to inform the Commission that another small Conservation Restriction will be placed on the Patten Hill project. Audubon has already taken control of most of the property. The Patten Hill Trust is keeping a large barn and a three-acre lot. Two of those acres will have a CR. The owners have retained the right to build a single-family house and attendant septic and well on the remaining acre.

 **New Business**

Steve has noticed six trees having been cut down right on the edge of a stream bank alongside Bardwells Ferry Road. The fear is that even more trees will be cut. Other Commission members were asked to check the situation. John recused himself from any discussion on this as the landowner is one of his clients.

Steve asked that all Building Permits that have been granted be listed at each meeting.

The new owners of the fire pond at the former “Duck Pond” want to do some maintenance of the pond. They were asked to contact the Fire Department.

The next meeting will be May 11.

At 8:13 p.m. John, seconded by Steve, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant

**Document List**

Meeting minutes of February 9

Meeting minutes of March 9

RDA application from Forton/Coleman

Email from Jenner Bestor

Notice of utility maintenance