Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ June 8, 2021

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

Absent: Allan Smith

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Jen Hale, Craig Manning, Joan Terry, Andrew Quient, Tom Johnson

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve.

**Building Permits**

John reported that one building permit had been approved, it was for a property on Frankton Road.

**Organizational Matters**

All Commission members are due to take the state ethics exam before the end of June. John, Ellen, and Faye have taken the test.

The Governor’s order requiring no in-person meetings may soon be revoked. Ellen and Norm would like to go back to in-person meetings. Steve liked the flexibility of a hybrid model. John and Faye prefer meeting by Zoom.

**Extension of NOI – Jen Hale, 230 Taylor Road – 7:15 p.m.**

Jen Hale was issued an NOI in 2018 and is concerned that it will expire before the work is done. Her 2018 plan involved a new garage that would face the nearby river. She now plans to change the angle of the garage. The entire property is within 200 feet of Shingle Brook. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the revised plan as submitted on May 11, 2021 for 230 Taylor Road. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**Beaver Dam – Craig Manning – 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. Manning had received a permit to remove beavers from a small beaver pond near his driveway. The beavers are gone but Mr. Manning remains concerned about the water level behind the beaver dam and fears that if the dam gave way his driveway would be flooded. He does not want to remove the dam but would like to get a water flow device to lower the water level. Steve wondered what the Commission could do, now that the beavers have been removed, but a site visit is in order. Mark Stinson’s opinion will be sought. Routine beaver dam removal is never done. It’s only done when an emergency exists.

**Tom Johnson/Andrew Quient – erosion – 7:45 p.m.**

John and Ellen had visited the site and agreed that there is an erosion problem in the backyards of the Quient and Johnson properties. Mr. Johnson is concerned that Mr. Quient’s new driveway configuration will increase the problem. Mr. Quient has since done a new driveway design. Mr. Johnson said as long as snow was not piled up at the head of the eroded gully, he would be content. Mr. Quient said his contractor was aware of the erosion and would do everything possible not to make it worse. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Ellen, to approve the previous driveway plan as well as the plan submitted on June 8, as either plan is acceptable to the Commission. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; John – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**Old Business**

**Tree Cutting Along Stream**

The owner of the property is Foxbard Farm. The stream has changed course and no longer lines up with a nearby culvert. Steve said the culvert was not in the best place but the trees on the riverbank should not have been cut He said the best solution would be to move the culvert. That would require an NOI and would take months. Steve felt the trees should be replaced right away since without them the stream could cut across a field towards a nearby residence. Ellen felt the trees should not be replanted until after the brook issue is resolved. Norm felt a permanent solution should be discussed before any trees were planted. Steve said the landowner’s agent cut the trees in violation of the WPA and they should be advised of that fact. Steve said DOT and/or DEP should be asked for assistance. Shelburne Highway Superintendent Mark Shippee should also be consulted.

The next meeting will be July 13. This was later changed to July 20.

At 8:21 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**

Email from Tom Johnson