Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ July 20, 2021

Present: Allan Smith, Steve McCormick (joined 7:37 p.m.), Ellen Jenkins, Norm Davenport

Absent: John Richardson

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Bob Higgins, Lara Radysh, Kathy Lytle, Kevin Lennon, Dick Hillman, Craig Manning

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

**Minutes**

 A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Ellen, to approve the minutes of May 11. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Alan – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**Building Permits**

None reported.

**Organizational Matters**

None

**Kathy Lytle – Erosion**

Kathy Lytle came to the Commission explaining that a lot of erosion has been caused by the stream behind her building on Center Road. She feels it is now threatening her foundation and wants to shore up the area to prevent further erosion. The Commission asked her to file an RDA form.

**RDA Meeting for Kevin Lennon & Lisa Fusco, Little Mohawk Road – 7:15 p.m.**

Kevin purchased a portion of what was once the Benz farm and plans to build a house. There is a wetland (stream) in the southeast corner of the frontage. The rest of the frontage is steeper. Kevin hoped to put his driveway as close to the wetland as possible to avoid the steeper slope. He would keep the driveway at least 50 feet from the closest portion of the brook. Kevin was told that the wetlands would need to be delineated. Once that is done the Commission could make a decision. A motion was made by Allan, seconded by Ellen, to table the discussion on the Lennon/Fusco RDA until the wetlands have been delineated. Roll call vote: Norn – yes; Allan – yes; Ellen – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**RDA Meeting for Trailside Veterinary Services, 1116 Mohawk Trail– 7:30 p.m.**

Dick Hillman is the contractor for the work being done at 1116 Mohawk Trail. He plans to remove a timber retaining wall and replace it with a stonewall. Also planned is the removal of an existing corrugated plastic culvert and its replacement with an ADS N-12 culvert, which runs from a MassHighway paved runoff ditch to an existing catch basin. The existing driveway will be excavated and replaced with a clean crushed gravel base topped by processed gravel. It was thought DOT permission was needed as some of the work is in the state right of way. All wetlands are across Route 2 from the work site. A motion was made by Ellen to approve the application for Trailside Veterinary Services with a Negative 3 deyermination and no conditions. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Allan – yes; Ellen – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Old Business**

**Craig Manning – Beaver Pond**

Mr. Manning is still concerned about the beaver pond near his driveway. Mark Stinson had commented on the matter, which does not appear to be an emergency. The beavers have been removed but Craig is still concerned about the amount of water behind the dam which could flood his driveway if the dam were to give way. It was suggested that Mr. Manning look into water control devices, aka beaver deceivers, and come back with an RDA application.

**Tree Cutting Along Stream**

Discussion was held on the situation involving tree cutting on a stream bank on land owned by Foxbard Farm. Steve was tasked to write letters to Robert Warren (who cut the trees) and Foxbard Farm but he needed to know what the Commission planned to do. Steve felt the trees should be replanted. Should the landowners just be notified that they had violated the WPA or should they be required to replant? This is also a town issue since when the river floods it affects the Surner property. Norm thought the town Highway Department should get involved. Steve thought an NOI and engineering plans were needed and that could take years and that trees should be replanted in the meantime. Allan said he would speak to the owner of Foxbard Farm.

**Public Comment**

Lara Radysh has been following meetings of the Open Space Committee regarding a proposed trail along the Deerfield River. The Commission has heard nothing from the Open Space Committee for many months.

The next meeting will be August 10.

At 8:27 p.m. Allan, seconded by Steve, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Ellen – yes; Steve – yes; Allan – yes. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant

**Document List**

Minutes of May 11, 2021

Lennon/Fusco RDA application

Trailside Veterinary RDA application