Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ October 12, 2021

Present: John Richardson, Norm Davenport, Steve McCormick

Absent: Ellen Jenkins, Allan Smith

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Craig Manning

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**Organizational Matters**

Since the pandemic, it has become hard to collect fees for RDAs. The cost of legal advertising continues to go up. A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to charge a fee of $125 for each RDA application, and that the fee must be received before an application will be considered complete.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**RDA Meeting for Craig Manning – 7:15 p.m.**

John and Ellen had done a site visit earlier in the day. Mr. Manning wishes to install a water flow device in a beaver dam adjacent to his driveway. The fear is that if the dam were to break, his driveway would wash out. John thought an extraordinary amount of water would need to be behind the dam in order for the driveway to be affected. Joe Robidoux, a wildlife specialist, had suggested an eight-inch pipe as a water control device. Mr. Robidoux had successfully trapped and removed two beavers from the pond site earlier this year. The pipe would be three feet from the top of the dam, which would lower the water level by three feet. Steve thought the dam might eventually wear away on its own, but in the meantime, this was a good solution. A motion was made by John, seconded by Steve, to approve the RDA application as submitted by Craig Manning of 311 Colrain-Shelburne road with a Negative 2 determination.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**New Business**

**Liaison to Open Space Committee**

Ellen would like to be the Conservation Commission liaison to the Open Space Committee. A motion was made by John, seconded by Steve, to recommend that Ellen Jenkins be the Conservation Commission liaison to the Open Space Committee.

Voting in favor: Norm, Steve, John

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Ellen will be asked to forward any emails and other information from the Open Space Committee to the Commission.

**Old Business**

**Tree Cutting on Stream Bank**

Allan was to have talked with the landowners as a courtesy. Steve was concerned that the landowners didn’t know about the Wetlands Protection Act or that they had violated it. If the town is going to do anything in that area an NOI will be needed.

The next meeting will be November 23.

At 7:50 p.m. John, seconded by Steve, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Norm – yes; Steve – yes; John – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant