

P E T E R S H A M C O N S E R V A T I O N C O M M I S S I O N

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486
978/724-3353 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax

MINUTES

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 5:15 P.M. BY ZOOM

Members Present: Bob Clark - Chair, Henry Woolsey, Ann Lewis, Mike Seitz, Anne Cavanaugh - Clerk

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:49 p.m.

FOREST CUTTING PLANS

DCR – DWSP, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007 (for Gate 35, opposite South Athol Road in New Salem, S8NQ (Map 420 Lot 14-0) – DCR File No. 234-9496-19 – **Final**

DCR (DSCR), 355 West Boylston Street, Clinton, MA 01510, for State Forest Road, (Map 408 Lot 69-0 & Map 410 Lot 1-0) – DCR File No. 234- 31145-21 - **Pending**

Mary Jo & Michael Lundquist, 197 Hardwick Road (Map 416 Lot 66- 0) – DCR File No. 234-32177-21 – **Approved**

Tyson & Emily Neukirch, 62 South Street (Map 412 Lot 46-0) – DCR File No. 234-32190-21 – **Approved**

Sean Dubois & Molly Stevens Dubois, 500B West Street, Barre, MA 01005 - for Pat Connor Road (Map 415 Lot 16-0 & Map 415 Lot 17-0) - **Pending**

Ann Lewis offered to pick up the forest cutting plans and scan them into pdfs for Commissioners to review. There was discussion about the review of forest cutting plans and to look at any wetland issue on any forest cutting plan. Henry Woolsey stated DCR uses a forest cutting tabulation over time to see how much logging has happened. While cutting plans have to be completed in 2-3 years, extensions are available. He stated Mass Audubon plans to work on bird-friendly and climate-smart cutting plans, funded in part by DCR.

PROJECTS - NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDENS

Bob Clark stated that the town owns a number of CRs and he'd like to encourage the development of pollinator gardens on these properties. He mentioned EQLT's pollinator meadow on the Wilder property and how the Trustees of Reservation delayed mowing on the North Common Meadow until late summer to allow bobolinks and monarchs to complete their breeding cycles. Anne Cavanaugh added that the bobolinks on the drumlin at Rice's Roots farm increased in number last summer due to delayed haying until late August/early September. She is not certain what the haying schedule will be this year.

Bob Clark attended the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership meeting about pollinators. He'll share the presentation with Commissioners.

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TRAIL UPDATE, INVENTORY, AND MAINTENANCE - TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

There is an interest in town-connected trails, including rail trails. Commissioners discussed how to enlist volunteers for trail work. Some ideas included contacting local mountain bike groups and the Mahar ecology and outdoor clubs. Bob Clark mentioned how local resident Atakan Kadi helps maintain trails at the Swift River Reservation, the Nichewaug Tract, and Babbitt Sanctuary.

PARKING AND TRAIL MAP FOR THE DAVENPORT POND PROPERTY AND BABBITT SANCTUARY

Commissioners will review Nancy Allen's materials. Bob Clark stated there is some trash to clean up and a few trees to remove near the parking area to make it more visible. A gate will need to be installed in front of the trail head to keep out motorized vehicles. Henry Woolsey and Ari and Jackson Pugliese recently inspected the ice on Davenport pond to see if it was thick enough for skating. Unfortunately, it was not.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed inviting Steve Herzog, a professional wetland consultant, to join the Commission. Bob Clark will ask him after Steve Herzog's well is installed.

Ann Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Seitz seconded the motion. The motion passed with Bob Clark and Anne Cavanaugh in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Cavanaugh, Clerk