

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

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 6:00 P.M. BY ZOOM

Members Present: Bob Clark - Chair, Ann Lewis, Mike Seitz, Anne Cavanaugh - Clerk
Guest Present: Steve Herzog

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Request for Determination of Applicability by Steven Herzog of 15 West Street for the installation of a private drinking water well within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of bordering vegetated wetland by a truck-mounted drilling rig and excavation of a trench to the house for connecting pipe and power supply, Map 201 Lot 52-0. A copy of the Request for Determination may be inspected on <https://www.mytowngovernment.org/01366> Conservation Commission page.

Commissioners made a site visit to Mr. Herzog's property on January 17, 2021 at 2pm. The well is not in the resource area, but in the buffer zone. There was discussion about using swamp mats and plank mats under the drilling rig. In addition to mats, Mike Seitz recommended using a settlement tank to capture all of the drilling effluent and to locate the tank as far from the wetland as possible. There was consensus that this condition be added to the Negative Determination #3.

On a motion made by Anne Cavanaugh and seconded by Mike Seitz, the Commission moved to accept the Negative Determination #3, that the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions as amended: Placement of wooden plank mats to support equipment and erosion control around work area where necessary. Placement of a settlement tank to accommodate all drilling effluent furthest distance from the Resource Area. Ann Lewis and Bob Clark were in favor.

After the motion Steve Herzog left the Zoom meeting, and the Commission began its regular meeting.

REVIEW/APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Commissioners reviewed and moved on the following meeting minutes:

On a motion made by Bob Clark and seconded by Ann Lewis, the Commission moved to approve the Special Public Meeting minutes of Friday December 2, 2020, the Special Public Meeting minutes of Friday, January 8, 2021, the Public Hearing minutes of Tuesday, February 16, 2021, and the Special Public Meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 16, 2021 as amended. Mike Seitz and Anne Cavanaugh were in favor.

FOREST CUTTING PLANS

No forest cutting plans for review.

PROJECTS - NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDENS

No project updates for review.

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TRAIL UPDATE, INVENTORY, AND MAINTENANCE - TRAIL VOLUNTEERS.

No trail updates for review.

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

Commissioners will meet at the Davenport Property on Sunday, March 21, 2021 to walk the site and review Nancy Allen's materials.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

It's still unclear if Chris Eaton can offer the Babbitt Sanctuary Program at the Center School this spring due to Covid-19. The long-running program was cancelled last spring due to the pandemic. She has requested funding this year in case the program can take place in the spring. Commissioners discussed the funds. The Evelyn Murphy fund, an unrestricted account, is getting low and two commissioners have donated money to the Babbitt Sanctuary Program in the past because of this. The restricted Babbitt Trust fund is fine and the expenditure for the Babbitt Sanctuary Program comes from the interest. Should the program not go forward, the monies will remain out of the account and used to pay Barnes' Landscaping for mowing at the Babbitt Sanctuary this year.

On a motion made by Ann Lewis and seconded by Mike Seitz, the Commission voted to approve the expenditure of \$1800 from the Babbitt Trust Fund for the the Babbitt Sanctuary Program at the Center School led by Chris Eaton/Mass Audubon and the expenditure of \$800 from the Evelyn Murphy fund for bussing to and from the Sanctuary.

Felicia Newhouse of Glasheen Road contacted Bob about the large number of crops she's growing and the amount of well water needed to irrigate them. She is in contact with NRCS about the installation guidelines for an irrigation pond. Bob commented that a pond may negatively impact the wetland on site. Bob stated he would talk with Mark Stinson. Should the work take place in the wetland buffer zone, she'll have to file a Request for Determination. Mike Seitz commented that drilling one or more wells may be more cost effective.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Site visit Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m., Davenport Pond Property, Doe Valley Road, Petersham.

Public Hearing continued to Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Cavanaugh