 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

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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**5 November 2019**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS: GUESTS:**

√ John Baker Anne Perkins

√ Robert Clark

√ Anne Cavanaugh

√ Henry Woolsey

√ David Boeri

x David Lockesmith

The meeting was called to order at 8:55 pm in the Town Hall Building, following a Public Hearing. The meeting was duly posted on My Town Government website (*http://www.mytowngovernment.org/*), and the Meeting Agenda was submitted to the Town Clerk and posted at the Town Office and Post Office.

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the September and October meetings were approved with minor changes. Minutes of the previous May meeting were also reviewed.

**Forest Cutting Plans**

A cutting plan for work on DCR Quabbin land was reviewed, for the area of Gate 39, on Dugway Road. The land to be cut is on Map 420, Lot 14-0. The DCR file number is 234-11096-19, Amendment 1.

**Commission Membership**

The Commission is still attempting to recruit one more member.

**Potential NOI or RDA**

The bridge over Moccasin Brook on Quaker Drive is currently closed to traffic. Bob Clark has asked the highway superintendent, Greg Waid, for a request to perform the work, so that we can schedule a site visit to determine whether the work can be approved via an RDA, or whether an NOI will be required. There are considerable wetlands in the area.

A second potential issue is the possibility that a house (with septic system) will be planned for a lot on Old East Street—specific location not available at the time of the meeting. There is no dwelling on the lot currently. Wetland issues are likely, and if so would require an NOI. Bob Clark noted that we need to determine whether the lot is within the jurisdiction of the Cohen Bill, which would increase the restricted area for the septic system.

A third potential issue involves a lot on Popple Camp Road, where a new home may be proposed.

**Culvert and drainage issues**

Bob Clark noted that he has received no updates on any work on the culvert running under Rt. 122 near his property.

**Conservation restriction monitoring**

John Baker noted that his conservation class had done their first walk-through of six CR’s: St. Mary’s, Rice’s Roots, Landworks Farm, Gould Woodlot, King Farm, and the Day CR surrounding Brown’s Pond. The following weeks will see the teams of students perform the official monitoring for the six properties, and write the reports. Dr. Rich King is helping to supervise the work, and in addition will perform the monitoring on four additional properties.

**National Grid maintenance**

Bob Clark received a courtesy letter dated 2 October 2019 informing the Commission of National Grid maintenance work on the power line section running from Dugway Road through the Quabbin reservation. The work involves painting towers. The line passes just north of Soapstone Hill, and crosses both the East Branch Fever Brook and West Branch Fever Brook. The work began in early October and will continue as needed through the winter. This work is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act, and the letter was a courtesy only.

**Approval Not Required Actions**

None.

**DCR Advisory Decisions under the Watershed Protection Regulations**

None

**Miscellaneous**

David Lockesmith noted that he had been walking on the public part of the Earthlands property, which is now under new ownership. David noted that the new owners had done some substantial work on the private road leading from Glasheen Road to the Earthlands buildings. David thinks there may be some issues regarding the wetlands downslope from the road, eventually draining into Cardinal Brook. John Baker and David Lockesmith had attempted to visit the property but were unable to do so prior to this meeting.

Henry Woolsey noted that he had recently received some information from area towns regarding their zoning ordinances and bylaws, particularly regarding solar installations.

Henry Woolsey also noted that the following night, Wednesday, 6 November 2019, at 7:30pm, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing regarding the siting of a cell phone tower just to the south of Chimney Hill. The location is of interest to the Commission because the adjacent property, Rice’s Roots LLC, has a Conservation Restriction on it, and the plan for the tower apparently involves a 500-foot “buffer” of uncertain status.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Baker

Recorder