

Conservation Commission – Town of Spencer

Minutes



Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 6:15 PM
Town Hall, McCourt Social Hall

If remote please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/tmiller4/conservation>

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1.0The Meeting was opened at 6:15 pm

Commissioners Present: Charlie Bellemer, Margaret Emerson (Chair), Robert Perry & Warren Snow

Commissioners Absent: Mary McLaughlin

Staff present: Lauren Trifone, Jane Green

Staff absent:

2.0 Public Hearing/Meetings

a. 6:18 p.m. Opened the Public Meeting for the Request for Determination of Applicability for William Gribbons

Property: 79 Wilson Avenue, Spencer, MA

Mr. Gribbons wants to take down a large dead tree. Ms. Emerson read the inspection report. Ms. Trifone showed pictures of the tree to the Commission. They are designing plans for a new septic system as well. The tree is in the same vicinity as the old septic system.

A motion to close the public meeting (Snow/Bellemer) 4/0 passed.

All in favor: Emerson-Aye, Bellemer-Aye, Perry-Aye, Snow-Aye.

A motion for a negative determination (Snow/Perry) 4/0 passed.

b. 6:25 p.m. Opened the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent for Robert Dirsa Property: Burncoat Pond, Spencer, MA no DEP# issued yet.

Dominic Meringolo, from Solitude Lake Management, said the plan is to perform selective vegetative treatment to areas of the pond that have invasive species. In the past, they have done treatment to the Leicester side of the pond. The list of chemicals is in the NOI packet. Solitude always follows the guidelines from EPA and the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Snow wanted to know if they considered a drawdown for invasive treatment. Mr. Meringola had not thought of that for Burncoat Pond. He explained that a drawdown is when the water level is lowered over the winter months to allow the plants to freeze and dry, thereby killing the root system. He said they would have to investigate the ability to lower the pond. The pond is only 8 1/2 feet deep. They would have to make sure it could support the fish in the winter. He thinks that treatment would have a limited benefit.

Ms. Trifone said that in the NOI there is a list of chemicals and the risk is relatively low. There is also a section using other methods for control. This plan was presented in 2015. Mass Audubon's reason for not wanting to proceed, was that it had not been done in the area and there wasn't enough information on the possible effects. Ms. Trifone did reach out to Leicester and they did not have any comments or concerns. The reports of treatment in Leicester have been successful. Audubon is an abutter and there has been no response from them.

Mr. Snow wanted to know if they coordinate with Cedar Meadow. Mr. Meringolo said they have had limited dealings with Cedar Meadow. Cedar Meadow has their own Environmental Consultant. Mr. Snow wanted to know what the impact would be to do the treatment simultaneously. Mr. Meringolo said that no herbicide could work its way down that far. Ms. Trifone wanted to know how long the treatment process is and if the pond will be closed. Mr. Meringolo said it only takes a few hours for one day and they would close the pond.

Ms. Emerson said that there was an issue with fish kill on Sugden and wanted to know if they take precautions. Mr. Meringolo said they do take precautions. He said that was a different kind of treatment and the weather was very hot. They never found out what caused it. He is going to reach out to Mass Audubon for comments. Glenn Krevosky said that Greenville Pond in Leicester is invaded with Water Chestnut. It is heading to CT. Mr. Krevosky suggested to put up signs about invasives species being carried from boat to waterbodies and how important it is to clean boats. Mr. Meringolo has not seen much of the water chestnut.

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to February 9, 2022.

c. 6:50 p.m. Continued the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent for Gordon Letour

Property: 10 Meadow Road, Spencer, MA DEP#293-1007

Glenn Krevosky just started working on this project. He said that there is an abandoned dumping ground under the riverfront. There are tires, batteries and metal. He would like to clean it up and test the soil if the town would allow it. It would benefit the town as well as the client. He would like to continue until March. Ms. Trifone is going to work on getting this on the Agenda with the Board of Selectman.

At the request of the applicant, the hearing has been continued to March 23, 2022.

d. 7:05 p.m. Continued the Public Meeting for the Request for Determination of Applicability for Sean & Cheryl Wood

Property: 19 Sherwood Drive, Spencer, MA

Sean & Cheryl Wood would like to have five trees taken down. The trees are a safety issue. The Commission looked at the photos and said they look healthy. Ms. Trifone said that they look worse in person except for one of the trees. The Commission would like replacement plantings near the shoreline. Since some of the trees are dangerous, Ms. Trifone is going to issue an Administrative Approval to take them down. Mr. Perry suggested the applicant provide a diagram and the species of plants for the next meeting.

At the request of the Commission, the meeting has been continued to February 9, 2022.

3.0 Agent's Update:

- a. Policy on Continuances and Abutter Notification – changed wording. This was reviewed by K.P. Law. The Commission wanted to wait until Mary McLaughlin was back.
- b. The Board of Selectman voted to waive the right of first refusal for Laureldale Trust.
- c. A town employee will be out for a few months at U&F. Ms. Trifone is going to help during this time, after completing her hours in Conservation.
- d. Ms. Trifone asked the Commission if they have any suggestions on what to use the ARPA Funds for. Mr. Snow suggested Watershed Protection. Ms. Emerson said that some of it should be used to help people affected by the Pandemic.
- e. There was discussion about educating the public on Conservation topics with flyers.
- f. The warrant for the Spring Town Meeting is open on February 8, 2022. The Commission needs to make sure Article 32 is revised.
- g. There was a discussion related to cost about when to use BSC, and to be cognizant when we do need to use their services.

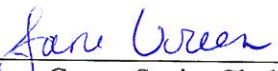
- h. The Commission discussed the concerns with cleaning the towns land near 10 Meadow. There is a concern for soil and water contamination from batteries, transformers, etc.,
- i. There was a discussion on updates with violations. Ms. Trifone created a spreadsheet to tackle these violations.

4.0 Minutes 1/12/22 *A motion to approve the minutes (Perry/Snow) 4/0 passed.*

5.0 New Applications: RDA – 35 Jolicoeur Avenue
RDA – U25 #22-41 Lamoureux Lane

6.0 *A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. (Perry/Snow) 4/0 passed.*

Respectfully submitted by:



Jane Green, Senior Clerk
Development & Inspectional Services

Documents reviewed at the 1/26/22 Conservation Commission Meeting

Agenda 1/26/22

Minutes 1/12/22

Continuance form 19 Sherwood Drive

DOA – 79 Wilson Avenue

Continuance form Burncoat Pond

Continuance form 10 Meadow Road

Spencer Conservation Commission Policy on Continuances and Abutter Notification