

Egremont Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 13, 2022 **Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Under Town of Egremont Covid Policy, the entire meeting will be conducted via Zoom

Call to order 5:30 pm

Commission members present:

David Seligman, Chairman, Bill Tynan, former Chairman,(by phone), Alexis Wreden, Secretary, Patrick Riordan, Member, David Campbell, Member.

Attendees:

Mike Straher, 24 Lakeside Drive

Kate Lascar, 17 Mt. Washington Road

Mary McGurn, Member Planning board, By-law Committee and Open space and Recreation plan consultant update representative

Emily Stockman, Professional Wetland Scientist and Peer Reviewer for Commission for NOI 24 Lakeside Drive.

Peggy McDonough, ARPA Grant Administrator, Forestry Plan, Consultant discussion Open Space

Lucinda Vermeulen, Vice chairperson, Selectboard

Jim Kelly, Forester

Shannon Poulin, Conservation Commission Clerk

Adam Slutsky 246 Egremont Plain Road

Chris Tomich, Tomich Landscaping for 246 Egremont Plain Road

Richard Rethemeyer , Louise Belcore 73 Jug End

Bridge McCracken, Helia Land Design for 9 Shuntoll Road

Minutes as corrected approved from December 16, 2021.

Public Hearings:

Open: 5:37

Continuation of a Public Hearing on Notice of Intent (NOI) by Leslie Davenport and Michael Straher, 24 Lakeside Dr, #153-0231. Updated plans have been submitted today by Al Thorp and requests continuation. Board of Health also submitted. Emily Stockman will review and comment by February 3. **Hearing continued until 5:30 pm February 10.**

Closed: 5:39 PM

Open: 5:41 PM

Public meeting re: Request for Determination of Applicability from Dan Levinson, **104 Mt. Washington Rd.** re: removal of 2 trees on riverbank of Karner Brook, subject to the WPA. RDA **Approved with conditions -2** which are:

Procedural aspects of the tree removal will be addressed. The edge of the brook bank must be protected and left undisturbed. Therefore a 20' no tread clearance area must be observed. The following Specific Conditions need to be addressed:

Where does the heavy equipment go? The wood will have to remain on the property. Note: Any sawdust generated by removing the tree must be controlled from being dumped in the brook. The Tree may be cut to a breast height and stump must remain to anchor the bank. The trees on the opposite side of the bank may NOT be removed.

Closed: 5:48 pm

Open: 5:50 pm

Public meeting re: Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) from Tishan Hsu (Blue Bear LLC), 47 White's Hill Rd. for approval to remove five trees adjacent to an intermittent stream, subject to the WPA. RDA -2, approved with conditions which are: Installation of a silt fence around banks of intermittent stream will be protected by a silt fence.

Closed: 5:55 pm

Projects New & Old:

Open: 6:02 pm

Hacker/Schwartz 127 Mt. Washington Rd. RDA conditions met. Fully complied with Drawings presented mapping the erosion controls, the location of equipment and material storage. Construction schedule was also submitted to the Commission.

Closed: 36:59

Open: 37:05

Lascar/Budak 17 Mt. Washington Rd. RDA with conditions. Katy presented Plan details. And location of erosion controls with location of material storage, retention basin. No grading plan was included. However, the swale has been replaced to a French drain because of groundwater seepage and high-water table. Driveway will be widened, okayed by Jim Noe. Katy will present a construction schedule when available. Jim Noe will oversee retention basin by the road.

Commission requests notification for periodic site visits. At the time construction begins

Closed: 42:51

OPEN: 6:10 PM

Former Friedman property Forest Stewardship Plan Invasives Control and grant funding. One Stop for Growth initial expression of interest deadline February 4. Patrick Riordan meeting with Jess Toro to learn more about the invasives on the property. Jim Kelly, Forester, and author of the Forest Stewardship Plan recommended invasive removal through the "cut and dab" process with regular maintenance control over the years. He recommends beginning a site assessment with a "Baseline

Documentation” which documents the existing conditions of the property prior to any formal surveys. Joyce Frater and Juliet Haas will seek funding through the MVP program. Discussion continued to Feb. 10, 5:30 pm. at which time a project “to do” list will be drawn up by the Commission.

CLOSED: 6:27 pm

OPEN: 6:29 pm

Notice of Violation to Ronald Weiner re: 24 Mill Road. A cease-and-desist order will be issued by David Seligman . The order will allow no more clearing or burning of any materials on the site and will require immediate installation of erosion controls. A Project Review Form will be submitted to the Commission . Bridge McCracken from Helia Land Design presented ideas for open space meadow plantings and discussed the type and location of planned erosion. Bridge will submit a restoration plan drawing with a written plant list for the March meeting that includes the following:

- List of seed mixtures and their locations
- List of trees and shrubs to be included in the plant design
- A focus of tree and shrub plantings along the steepest slopes
- A 3 year maintenance plan
- Installation schedules
- Site visit schedules

David to leave enforcement order to be signed in drop box.

CLOSED: 7:00 pm

OPEN: 7:12 pm

Slutsky Restoration Plan for 246 Egremont Plain Rd. as required by Enforcement Order RDA approved based on the plans submitted by Tomich Landscaping. Conditions represented by the drawings will be met including the used of Native “low grow grasses” that will not require any future mowing near the stream banks. Erosion controls approved with the exception that the line represented on the drawings be extended to the actual boundaries of the open space planting areas to the edge of the natural areas on both sides.

CLOSED: 7:26 PM

Project Review form submitted by Daniel Doern and Eileen Baral re: 38 Lakeside Drive re: interior renovation. Patrick to setup site visit.

Request from Tishan Hsu, 47 White’s Hill Rd. for approval of additional tree removal under previously approved Forest Cutting Plan (Blue Bear L.L.C.) to maximize exposure for solar panel installation. Approved see above.

Request from Richard Rethemeyer, 73 Jug End Rd., for approval of a change in location for a previously approved structure. Commission supports new location. Patrick to set up site visit.

Correspondence:

Notice from DEP re: David Cameron's temporary absence. Continued.

Notice from DEP re: 401 Water Quality Certification for Routes 23/41 reconstruction project.

Note: May require Concom monitoring. Continued.

Notice from DEP re: 401 Water Quality Certification for Smiley's Pond Dam mortaring of riprap for turtle passage. Note: Will require Concom monitoring.

Notice from the Army Corps of Engineers for approval of fill material, Routes 23/41 reconstruction project.

Site Visit Report:

Christopher Albano re: tree removal 24 Sheffield Rd. The State forester cannot approve a "Change of Use". David to contact Bob Behan. Straw waddles to be installed on the sloped side of the site. Patrick to set up another site visit.

Inquiry from Jeff Turner, 16 Prospect Lake Rd., re: water softener outflow to side yard. The Commission requests a better solution to this problem. No out flow to the side yard will be approved.

Administrative:

Select Board re: Meeting Minutes

Forest Stewardship Plan for the Town of Egremont.

Open Space and Recreation Plan update and consultant selection process.

Possible Wetlands By-law discussion.

Congratulations to Alexis Wreden on completion of MACC Certification.

Mary McGurn presented notes on Masterplan Update and consideration of firms in the hiring process. The first to be interviewed is Inis and Tiger Bond Associates.

David Campbell requested a review policy regarding number of Commission members allowed on Site Visits. Continued until the next meeting.

Adjournment:

7:56 pm

Next regularly scheduled Commission meetings: February 10, 2022; February 24, 2022.

