

**Town of Sheffield
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Date: August 12, 2013
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: The Carlton French Room – Sheffield Town Hall

Members in Attendance:

Howard Chezar, Acting Chairman
Cheryl Blackburn
Peter Stiglin

Minutes Recorded by:

Joanne Conti

General Public in Attendance:

Ronald Tanner, 119 Salisbury Rd., Sheffield
Tim Ryan, 119 Salisbury Rd., Sheffield
Julie Richburg, Stockbridge, The Trustees of Reservations
Shannon Boomsma, 55 S. Merrian, Pittsfield
Kathly Orlando, Sheffield Land Trust, 404 LeGeyt Rd., Sheffield

Public Hearing, Notice of Intent filed by Brian Schwab, for property on 927 Boardman St., pond dredging.

The applicant still needed more time to satisfy DEP requirements and this item was continued to the next meeting.

Request for Certificate of Compliance for property of Deborah Reich, 1666 Boardman St.

A site visit had been made on this property and all was in order. However, new member, Peter Stiglin had not been sworn in as yet, preventing there from being a quorum. This item was continued to and would be acted on at the next meeting.

Bartholomew's Cobble Floodplain Forest Restoration

Julie Richburg of the Trustees of Reservations was present. She stated that work was being done under an Order of Conditions on 85 acres of Bartholomew's Cobble land to accomplish invasive plant removal. Floodplain forest restoration is also part of the project—ten acres of hayfields will be replanted with native species to improve the health of the various habitats and species in that area.

Ms. Richburg believed this work would be very beneficial—there will be no more mowing or tractors on the site. All planting will be done by hand, including trees using seedlings that are from the same site. She informed the Commission that this will be a long term project. The Commission expressed a desire to do a site visit.

Public Hearing, Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Bayer Materials Science, LLC for property on 119 Salisbury Rd., installation of a pump chamber and a leach field to accept non-contact cooling water from the plant.

Shannon Boomsma, Tim Ryan, Ron Tanner and Joe Wilkinson were all present for the applicant. It was stated that non-contact (“clean”) cooling water is used in the building. This water is presently being discharged into a pond on the property. The applicant would like to see it go into a leaching area instead. A pump chamber and leaching field will be installed for this purpose.

The applicant would like to improve the current situation as there is wildlife, such as fish inhabiting the pond. The pond is used as a fire pond, as well. The Commission wished to make a site visit. Silt fencing would be installed and the applicant would like to begin work in September as they still needed permitting from the DEP. This item was continued to the next meeting.

Other Business:

Kathy Orlando of the Sheffield Land Trust was present and presented a mostly completed, draft Conservation Restriction to the Commission. She stated that there were two changes that had been made at this time.

The buyer’s bank would not approve a mortgage for them with the permanency of a Conservation Restriction upon the building portion of this property, as that would affect its value. Therefore, it was agreed that a deed restriction, only would be put upon the building envelope and the rest of the property would be put into the Conservation Restriction. Secondly, the buyers would like to put in a riding ring in the existing fields. This is deemed allowable as it is not considered permanent.

Julie Richburg spoke to the Commission again about the culverts that were being installed and repaired along Weatogue Rd. in Bartholomew’s Cobble by the Town’s Dept. of Public Works. She stated that prior to this culvert work, the Trustees of Reservations had been working to improve a water runoff situation on Weatogue Rd. Heavy rains then caused a recent collapse on the road edges and sedimentation from the trail in that area was flowing towards the river. She stated that these were all documented problems.

She further stated that a week later, she saw signs put up that the road was closed, as well as dump trucks. She then contacted Natural Heritage. The Town had installed new culverts, which were now emptying into areas of the Cobble where there were no existing drainage swales. She stated that this area is a priority habitat. No silt barriers were put in during installation of the culverts and this has caused even more sediment to move towards the river and an existing vernal pool. This is also negatively impacting the work that has already been done for invasive species control. Ms. Richburg feels that this work, done without the filing of a Notice of Intent, contacting of Natural Heritage and any MESA review is a violation.

Howard Chezar stated that he will look at the site and contact the Dept. of Public Works, Natural Heritage and the ranger at Bartholomew’s Cobble. Ms. Richburg stated that she would prefer to see sheet flow drainage, rather than that which will create erosion gullies.

Bills Pending

Outstanding bills were addressed.

Mail:

Mail was distributed and read. There was a notice from Lycott Environmental regarding an herbicidal treatment to Perlman Pond that was scheduled for August 5th.

Minutes:

As there was no quorum, minutes of July 8, 2013 and July 22, 2013 were tabled to the next meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Commission this evening, the meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Sheffield Conservation Commission

Date: August 12, 2013

Name - PLEASE PRINT

Street, Town

1. Ronald Tanner 119 Salisbury Road, Sheffield
2. TIM RYAN 119 SALISBURY RD, SHEFFIELD
3. Julie Richburg Stackbridge, The Trustees
4. Shannen Boomsma of Reservations
5. Kathy Orlando 55 S. Merrim Pitts'
6. Sheffield Land Trust
7. 404 LeGeyt Rd, Sheffield
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