

Leverett Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 10, 7:15pm

Leverett Town Hall - First Floor Meeting Room

9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Commission Chair, Isaiah Robison.

Commissioners Present: Laurie Brown, Chris Nelson, David Powicki, Isaiah Robison, Carl Siebing, Ralph Tiner, Andrew Young

Public Attendees: Lauren Harris (Valley Solar), Linda Hillenbrand (3 Dudleyville Rd); Miho Connolly (Conservation Commission agent)

- Reviewed and approved August 29, 2016 minutes. Unanimously approved (motion made by David Powicki, seconded by Isaiah Robison). Reviewed and approved September 12, 2016 minutes. Unanimously approved (motion made by Chris Nelson seconded by Andrew Young).
- 7:21 p.m. Public Meeting for RDA: 3 Dudleyville Rd (Valley Solar for Linda Hillenbrand & Brian Blinn)
 - Valley Solar is installing a ground-mounted solar tracker within 200' of the Sawmill River. The project involves digging a hole for a 3'x2' installment, which will be filled with crushed stone. The debris dug out will be moved off-site. A narrow trench (20" depth) will be dug from the tracker to within about 40' of the bank for electrical conduits. The trench will be opened and closed within a day.
 - The project proposed is on a flat area of lawn and on a gravel access road.
 - Isaiah Robison made a motion to issue a **Negative 2** determination: the project is within a resource area but will not impact the resource. Seconded by Ralph Tiner; vote unanimous.
- 7:27 p.m. Administrative Matters
 - Repair of Gordon King Bridge
 - The walkway to the bridge needs repair, and the support for the covered bridge needs reconstruction. The bridge will be reconstructed by the Leverett Trails Committee on 10/16. Rocky estimates approximately \$450 for construction materials, plus \$500 to brush-hog the property. Although the funds for brush-hogging usually come from blueberry sales, there is not enough money in the account this year.
 - David Powicki made a motion to approve the spending of approximately \$1,000 from the WMECO Mitigation Gift Fund for the maintenance of the Gordon King Life Estate. Seconded by Ralph Tiner, vote unanimous.
 - Closing out the Bill Rivers CPA fund was also discussed, since the original project has been completed. Laurie Brown will discuss with the CPA.
 - John Root program endorsement
 - John Root requests endorsement for a cultural council grant to present a gardening or landscaping program in Leverett in 2017.

- The Commission would like to know more about the proposed program. John is invited to briefly present at the Commission's next meeting.
- 7:40 p.m. Old Business
 - FRCOG Permits:
 - 3 Dudleyville Rd (Valley Home Improvement for Brian Blinn) - see above
 - 5 Two Mile Rd (Valley Home Improvement for John Hunter) - not yet reviewed for resource issues.
 - DCR Approved Forest Cutting Plans
 - Stony Brook Lot (Richardson Rd) - Isaiah verbally told the workers that a silt fence is unnecessary as long as the logs are properly oriented.
 - John Conkey, Jr for Starkweather & Wescott; N Leverett & W Chestnut Hill
- 7:45 p.m. New Business (Issues around town)
 - Request for Certificate of Compliance: 106 Jackson Hill Rd
 - *As the contractor for this project, Isaiah Robison recused himself from the deliberation.*
 - The commission reviewed photos taken by the agent and a signed affidavit from the contractor that the work was completed in compliance with the Order. David Powicki made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Seconded by Ralph Tiner, vote unanimous.
 - Updates on North Leverett Rd Enforcement Order
 - Agent shared photographs of the site post-mitigation. The stipulations of the Enforcement Order have been met. A letter was sent to the Select Board to chronicle actions pertaining to the Order.
 - The Commission will schedule a meeting with Mark Stinson and the Highway Department next year to review potential culvert replacements in Leverett.
- 7:52 p.m. Other New Business not considered as of the date of this notice
 - The Leverett Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission will jointly submit Community Preservation Act grant proposals for trails-related projects.
 - Gordon King Life Estate Maintenance fund: as seen this year, blueberry funds cannot reliably cover the yearly maintenance costs of the Estate. The grant will cover these costs.
 - Trails Projects fund: The grant will cover a number of small- to medium-size projects to be completed over the next several years.
 - The agent requested funding to cover registration for the MACC Fall Conference. Isaiah Robison made a motion to approve the cost of \$95.00. Seconded by Ralph Tiner; vote unanimous.
 - Laurie Brown has files from the 1980s regarding a dispute with the power company. She is wondering if they should be kept, or if they can be disposed.
- Next Meeting Date(s): Monday, November 7 at 7:15 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. (motion made by Isaiah Robison, seconded by Chris Nelson).

