## Leverett Conservation Commission

## **Meeting Minutes**

## Monday, March 7, 2016, 7:30pm

Leverett Town Hall - First Floor Meeting Room 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Commission Chair, Isaiah Robison.

Commissioners Present: Chris Nelson, David Powicki, Isaiah Robison, Ralph Tiner Commissioners Absent: Laurie Brown, Andrew Young Public Attendees: Carl Siebing, Terry Kayne, Mitchell Mulholland

- Reviewed and approved February 1, 2016 minutes. Unanimously approved (motion made by Ralph Tiner, seconded by Isaiah Robison).
- 7:34 p.m. Public Hearing for NOI: 17 Richardson Rd (Terry Kayne)
  - Terry is interested in cutting down around 12 hemlock trees in the riverfront area in order to decrease shading on her driveway. The Commission determined that the trees immediately adjacent to the stream would be kept to maintain shade over the Coldwater Fisheries Resource (Williams Brook). Isaiah suggested that Terry plant 3 7 hardwood trees (saplings or whips) as a mitigation measure. The Commission will review the marked trees to confirm which trees may or may not be cut.
  - The Commission asked Terry Kayne to bring in an updated plan and narrative reflecting the Commission's suggestions. David Powicki made a motion to **continue** the hearing until the next meeting; seconded by Isaiah Robison. Vote unanimous.
- 7:53 p.m. Review of Friends of Leverett Pond Annual Proposal (200-0166)
  - o FLP reports continued success in invasive plant management, with last year showing particularly good results. FLP will begin treatment in early May to remove milfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Signage will be posted around the pond before herbicide treatment commences. Mitch assured the Commission that he monitors all work on the pond, and ensures that all debris from weed removal is moved >100' away from the pond. The Commission discussed the effectiveness of new geo-textile benthic barriers. The "Beaver Deceiver," a device for deterring beaver damage, was destroyed last year; FLP has erected signs to better inform the public. The FLP is planning to form an organization to take ownership of the dam in order to repair and maintain it.
  - Isaiah Robison suggested that the FLP annual proposal be posted to the Conservation Commission site.
  - Motion made by Ralph Tiner to approve the proposed plan for invasives treatment.
    Seconded by David Powicki; vote unanimous.
- 8:13 p.m. Administrative Matters
  - Conservation Commission vacancy left by Victoria Cliché

- Carl Siebing is interested in becoming a member of the Commission. The Commission discussed its activities and purview.
- The Commission discussed an interest in learning how commissions of other towns spend their time. The Commission also discussed the need to begin work on the next Open Space and Recreation Plan (expires 2019).
- Conservation Trust account (816)
  - The Commission agreed to maintain the account (which is an old land acquisition account that has been largely replaced by the CPA) in case it becomes useful, and to add to it if possible. It was proposed that the CPA may be willing to deposit money into it.
- o Annual Report for FY15 was submitted
- Agent will invite the new Highway Superintendent and Mark Stinson to the next meeting to review protocol for Emergency Certificates.
- 8:45 p.m. Old Business
  - FRCOG permits:
    - 0 Rattlesnake Gutter Rd No resource issues
  - Water Quality Certification for 200-0167 (WMECO) project completed.
- 8:50 p.m. New Business (Issues around town)
  - Forest Cutting Plans
    - Dudleyville Rd (Edwards for Drury)
    - Dudleyville Rd (Cowls) Extension & Amendment
    - Shutesbury Rd (Fish & Donnelly for Adams)
    - Shutesbury Rd (Fish for Smith & Smith)
    - Chestnut Hill Loop (Fish for Calagione III) Extension
    - N Leverett & W Chestnut Hill Rds (Conkey, Jr for Starkweather & Wescott)
  - o Agent reported on her experience at the MACC Annual Conference on March 5
- 8:55 p.m. Other New Business not considered as of the date of this notice
  - o State-funded Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant & Flood Mitigation Assistance program
    - No immediate ideas for this; agent will inquire how commissions of neighboring towns are approaching this grant.
  - New trail on Teawaddle Hill Farm
    - Links the north end of the meadow with the bog-bridge trail on the east.
    - David will coordinate with Mary Alice about tagging.
  - Agent will be away from 5/26 5/31; 6/28 7/09. Absences will be posted on site and on voice mail.
- Next Meeting Date(s): Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. (motion made by David Powicki, seconded by Isaiah Robison).