

**Monday, September 12th, 2022 - Leverett Conservation Commission meeting minutes
FINAL**

In Attendance:

David Powicki, Chair
Jono Neiger, Voting member
Gail Berrigan, Voting member
Joan Deely, Voting member
Seth Heminway, Voting member
Adam Kohl, Conservation Agent
Samuel Black, FONLS
Donald Robinson - FONLS
Bridget Likely - Kestrel Land Trust
Miriam DeFant - Shutesbury Con Com Chair

Meeting started: David starts meeting at 7:04pm

1) Heronemus Land - Approving CPA application

Bridget introduces the project which includes conserving 91 acres of land off of Depot Rd. Kestrel will own the land and the Leverett Conservation Commission would hold the Conservation Restriction (CR). Bridget is here hoping for support for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) application letter she has drafted. Joan is concerned that there isn't enough context in the letter to support the claim of climate-resilience; adding context to why the parcel helps climate-resiliency was requested by the Commission. Gail suggests adding in the narrative phrasing about the ecological values of forested land. David mentions we should clarify what the recreation uses may be. Bridget says Kestrel is likely ok with any usual types of recreation, but that those details can be settled in the CR. The property may already be used by hunters, and snowmobilers, and that should be taken into consideration. Gail makes a motion to have Kestrel redraft the letter with the suggested edits, Seth seconds, All in favor.

2) EENF comments for Eversource Right-of-Way widening proposal

Adam explains the history of the project which involves Eversource Energy filing an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) with Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Eversource has requested from MEPA that they get a pass on having to complete a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and instead submit an abbreviated EIR. Miriam DeFant, Chair of the Shutesbury Conservation Commission is in attendance and speaks on the possibility of collaboration between towns on creating Orders of Conditions after the anticipated

Notice of Intents (NOIs) from Eversource are filed. Shutesbury will likely hire Emily Stockman as a 3rd party reviewer for this project. David makes a motion for Adam to draft comments to send to MEPA after the Commission reviews them, the comments will be supporting Eversource having to complete a full EIR. Seth seconds, all in favor.

3) Jim Hicks and Anna Botta's questions about a new well

This item is passed over as Jim Hicks contacted the Commission prior to the meeting stating he already has signed permission from the Conservation Commission for a new well location from several years ago, and he had just forgotten about it.

4) Community park and nature trail at Slarrow Sawmill

Sam Black introduces the project which includes turning the area around Slarrow Sawmill into a community park with nature trails and signage. The project includes cleaning up several crumbling structures, making a path less than 3' wide, and removing tree saplings that are compromising historic stone structures. The area is in the Riverfront Area, hence subject to the Rivers Protection Act. The commission suggests hiring a wetland scientist to delineate the area and filing an NOI with the Commission.

5) Approval of draft statement for website on Leverett Pond

Gail introduces her draft statement for the website on Leverett Pond. There is discussion on taking a more active role in broadcasting Conservation Commission news and updates. The draft pleases the Commission and Adam is to add it to the website.

6) Budget report

Nothing to report as Adam is still preparing the report.

7) Minutes, Mail, and Items not anticipated within 48 hours

August minutes are not reviewed, they will be approved at the next meeting.

David Powicki announces he will be stepping down as Chair and leaving the Conservation Commission after the November meeting. The Commission will need a new member, and will need to select a new Chair.

Next meeting is set for: October 4th, Tuesday via Zoom

Motion to close the meeting: Seth makes a motion to adjourn, David seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:53pm