

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING OCT. 18, 2023 MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Mike Barry, Robin Conley, Sarah Kerns

Absent: Charlie Blanker, Tori Luksha

Guests: Richard Ryan, Ben Paly

Bill opened the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Ben Paly, who purchased the property at 50 South Mountain Rd with another family, had **questions regarding the conservation restriction (CR)** on the land. He reviewed the Town of Northfield document of the original CR which ConsCom emailed to him. Ben inquired about the farm conservation plan in that CR involving NRCS. Bill stated that, if there is no documentation of an NRCS plan, it wasn't done. Mike said Ben and his team can approach NRCS regarding a plan on this CR land. Ben shared he will keep ConsCom informed of plan developments and forest mgt plans via ConsCom's Email. Ben will also contact Andrew Vernon of the Stewardship Cmte regarding the inspection of this CR land.

Sarah attempted to discuss with Northfield Board of Health (BOH) at a meeting the issue of people possibly residing in a **trailer at 21 Birnham Road**. The trailer is next to a perennial stream. Problems timewise prevented a meeting discussion. Sarah agreed to write a letter to BOH, and this issue will be on November's agenda.

Richard Ryan, 796 Pine Meadow Rd, wants to install a **single-pole tracking solar panel** on his property. He submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) form and presented several maps of the potential site that is within the resource area of a stream. We agreed there would be no disturbance to the stream. Motion made (Sarah/Mike) and carried to complete Form 2 with a negative determination (meaning no impact to a water resource).

ConsCom continues to be unaware of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) decision regarding the **erosion at King Philip's Hill**. Charlie was unable to reach out to the chair of ZBA, and no ZBA meeting minutes have been posted regarding this issue. ConsCom will contact ZBA by letter.

We continued to discuss mapping tools for the new tablet to be used by the **Stewardship Cmte**. Bill spoke with Andrew Vernon who shared he and others are now monitoring CR lands and trails. Bill requested that the reports be communicated with ConsCom. Andrew said he prefers emails to phone and/or text messages.

The **silt and debris have been removed at Pauchaug Boat Ramp**. The first soil sample test results at the site did not indicate any toxins.

In the mail, Ward Smith, wetlands specialist addressing the issues of the **Cease & Desist Order** at 15 Millers Falls Road, submitted a draft report with photos. We reviewed Mr. Ward's report and agreed more information is needed.

Sept. 20 minutes approved with one correction. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

*RC Conley*