

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING DEC. 21, 2022 MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn (phone), Mike Barry, Charlie Blanker, Robin Conley, Sarah Kerns, Tori Luksha

Guests: Skip Dunnell, Andrew Vernon

Charlie opened the meeting at 7:08 pm.

A continued hearing was held on the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) for the proposed town Safety Complex. Bill updated the Commission by stating that David Cameron, Wetlands Specialist, is reviewing the determination conducted by SWCA Environmental Consultants of the wetlands boundaries. Bill informed us that Mr. Cameron did a walk through either Dec. 2 or 3 and is now waiting for a break in the weather with no snow and without frozen ground to conduct a thorough delineation evaluation if necessary. We also need to finalize the agreement with Mr. Cameron. Charlie questioned why ConsCom is hiring a third consultant and not the Safety Complex Committee, and Sarah agreed. Bill stated that Skip Dunnell agreed to the choice of a wetlands specialist peer review. Also, the applicant (Safety Complex Committee) has paid for the services of a wetlands specialist. ConsCom had the choice of either accepting the wetlands delineation done by SWCA or to conduct a peer review. There was a question about the riverfront boundaries. Charlie said he was not aware of a full determination done by the first specialist. Robin requested that ConsCom be provided with the first report. Skip shared that differences between the first report and the SWCA report existed which is why we are now contracting with a third wetlands specialist. Motion made (Tori/Robin) and carried to hire David Cameron as the Wetlands Specialist for the Safety Complex. Motion made (Tori/Robin) and carried to continue the hearing of ANRAD to the next meeting, Jan. 18, 2023.

Bill informed us that Mark Stinson has been rehired to the position of **Western Mass DEP Circuit Rider**. We discussed having a Safety Complex site visit for the public. Bill said that Andrea Llamas is considering this.

We discussed how the **Stewardship Committee (SC)** has not been active and there is poor communication between committees. Andrew said he did trail maintenance in April with Gretchen Licata, a member of SC, and that trails are monitored. Andrew shared that Joanne McGee suggested SC have a winter meeting to plan trail maintenance throughout the coming year since SC is task oriented. Andrew said that monitoring reports are filed. Charlie said that, since SC is under ConsCom and not Open Space, monitoring reports be presented at ConsCom meetings for approval and feedback. Sarah is willing to be a conduit between ConsCom and SC since she is on both. Everyone agreed better organization is needed and some ideas were expressed. Bill asked if SC has contacted Mt. Grace, and Andrew said they have. We discussed updating maps and incorporating GIS capabilities. SC will submit their Monitoring Report to ConsCom in February.

Sarah said a possible **IT grant** is available for a laptop to be shared by town committees. The computer could have a desk in Town Hall, and various committees can have their own account. Charlie said this potential grant needs to be presented to the Selectboard. Charlie informed us of a trail maintenance program the Appalachian Mtn Club has that members can use with their cell phones. Mike discussed his field tablet, and we discussed potential GIS based software.

Nov. meeting minutes will be reviewed at the ConsCom January regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes accepted 01/18/23 with corrections.