

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MAY 3, 2023 MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Charlie Blanker, Robin Conley, Tori Luksha

Absent: Mike Barry, Sarah Kerns

Guests: Howard & Virginia Hastings, Nick Fleck, Sam Richardson, Tessa Powers, Alan Chiroine, Michele Wood

Bill opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

This special meeting was scheduled as a continuation of the **Notice of Intent (NOI) of the public safety complex**. We were hoping to have more information but, when the town voted down the funding for the public safety complex, ConsCom stopped the environmental studies. However, we have a town request to continue the NOI with a focus on drainage and storm water runoff. The meeting was opened to the public for questions and comments. A resident asked if the land could be designated as **Conservation Restriction**. Charlie said the Selectboard makes a CR request and then refers it to ConsCom. Other concerns were the 100' and 200' delineations from Mill Brook, impact on endangered species, the sewer lines which run through the site, and wildlife habitat assessments. Charlie explained that ConsCom can add order of conditions to an NOI to address relevant concerns. Bill spoke with Mark Stinson of Western Mass DEP who recommended that the environmental consultant review the entire NOI. Motion made (Charlie/Tori) and passed to have David Cameron review the entire NOI of the public safety complex. Motion made (Charlie/Tori) and carried to continue the discussion of the NOI until the next meeting on May 17, 2023.

Alan Chiroine, representing All States Construction that does on-call repairs for the railroads, informed us of a culvert in Bennett Brook that is below the railroad lines and is in dire need of repair. Water is undermining and eroding the wing walls, and the culvert, although working, is deteriorating. Mr. Chiroine provided many photographs of the site. The culvert was built in the late 1800s. An access road needs to be built to bring in machinery and material. Mr. Chiroine requested ConsCom's recommendation on how to proceed with this **railroad culvert emergency repair**. Bill stated that railroads are allowed to make repairs as needed, but Mark Stinson of DEP recommended Mr. Chiroine go to the Army Corps of Engineers in Concord, Mass. An alternative is the railroad to submit an NOI. We appreciated his goodwill to the Northfield community.

Michele Wood inquired **how to address an Order of Conditions attached to an NOI** on property her parents own. Order of Conditions is a lien against a property. ConsCom informed her to file a Certificate of Compliance (COC) form, put it on an agenda, and ConsCom makes a site visit. If the order of conditions has been met, ConsCom signs the COC.

Minutes of the April 12 minutes were approved as written. We reviewed mail.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.