

Northfield Conservation Commission

September 20, 2017

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Mike Barry, Joan Deely, Charley Eiseman, Leslie Powers

Absent: Charlie Blanker

Guests: William & Jill Crooker, Bob Pasteris

Call to order @7:35 pm

Hearings

RDA – US Geological Survey

The USGS wants to install a gaging station to monitor flow & water quality of the CT River at the end of Old Bernardston Rd. This temporary structure will be removed after 5 years.

The Crookers are abutters and saw the notice about the RDA hearing.

Mr. Crooker – Solar panels are still left from First Light's previous gaging station (related to FERC relicensing), which was removed after 2 years. The Crookers would like the new structures to go a little further north from where the USGS currently has it staked: aesthetic considerations; high foot traffic area (fishing etc.). Can't they put it where 1st monitoring station was?

Mrs. Crooker – They're trying to determine where phosphates are coming from (VT & NH? Or all MA & CT?)

Crookers not concerned about location of equipment in river, just the box: would be nice to put it under the solar panel left by First Light.

BL called Jon Morrison (USGS) during meeting and left a message.

BL – Jon says it won't interfere with boats.

MB – Can we approve contingent on moving location?

BL – Don't see why not.

Mr. Crooker – The 1st one got broken into; there is a geocache location in guard rail nearby. They've ushered people away from it before, but wouldn't be able to in the new spot.

MB – Is within 50 feet of existing solar panels good?

Crookers – Yes.

JD – Crookers should talk to Jon Morrison directly.

MB – USGS letter refers to picture #6; it appears that the plan is already to put it right where the solar panel is.

JD – Motion to close hearing, issue negative determination.

LP – Seconds.

MB – In determination, refer to picture #6 description (3rd paragraph in 7/13 letter from USGS describing location)

Passed unanimously.

Crookers given Jon's phone number.

CE will fill out Form 2, have Town Clerk send copies to Jon Morrison and DEP.

Warwick Road

MB – Motion to continue hearing to next meeting.

CE – Seconds.

Passed unanimously.

Other business

Stewardship Committee

Bob Pasteris – The SC is contemplating some thinning in the Town Forest. Mike Mauri says a couple hundred cords of thinning could be done to improve growth of red oak. He is concerned with the difficulty of getting logging trucks there, but trusts Tom Walker's assessment. Bob and Tom went in July; Tom thinks existing logging road access would be fine. Mike says existing nearby landing could be used.

MB – Revenue?

Bob – Mike thinks it might be a wash.

MB – Just a cordwood sale might be hard to finance. Contract would need a provision for cost not to exceed revenue.

BL – If not breaking even, would require a town meeting vote.

Bob – The SC has almost marked all boundaries of Town Forest.

Old Minutes

We need to find, print, and act on minutes from previous meetings (back to April).

NEXT CC MEETING: OCTOBER 18, 2017

LP motion to adjourn 8:50

MB seconds

Passed unanimously

Bob Pasteris
Chris [unclear]
[unclear]
Charles Walker
Joan [unclear]
Mike [unclear]