

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING AUGUST 16, 2023 MINUTES

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

Guests: Skip Dunnell, Richard Ryan

Charlie opened the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Skip Dunnell, Director of Emergency Management, presented WPA Emergency Certification Form to restore emergency and public access to Connecticut River following the recent flooding. The plan states **removal of silt and debris from the Pauchaug concrete boat ramp**, temporarily stockpiling on-site. Results of a recent soil test are expected soon. If no contaminants, the silt and debris will be stockpiled at the edge of the field, otherwise silt and debris is to be removed from site per DEP. ConsCom requested copies of the test results. The work needs to be done within 30 days of signing the emergency certificate. ConsCom added Order of Conditions (OOC) that a second soil test is to be conducted prior to removal and that the runoff from stockpiled silt and debris will be contained.

Richard Ryan, 796 Pine Meadow Road, wants to install a **single-pole tracking solar panel** on his property. The optimal site is approximately 165 feet from a perennial stream. Richard provided maps. ConsCom recommended a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), but Charlie will confirm with DEP that this would be the correct form. ConsCom will contact Richard soon of the DEP form so he can be on next month's agenda.

We discussed the **Cease & Desist Order** at 15 Millers Falls Road issued by ConsCom and reviewed the draft letter in preparation to mail a certified letter to the property owner. Tori reached out to the town's attorney who suggested wording. ConsCom laboriously edited the draft letter. Motion made (Mike/Sarah) and carried to accept the amended letter. Another motion made (Sarah/Mike) and carried to put a lien on the property as a condition of enforcement.

Charlie, Bill and Sarah made a site visit at 877 Old Wendall Road in response to an **RDA for a small stream modification**. The intentions are for grandchildren's recreation and watering a large garden. They determined the flow of the water was minimally impacted and the 1" irrigation pipe was of no impact to the water resource. Motion made (Mike/Tori) and carried to approve the stream modifications pending newspaper notice and public input at the September meeting.

An **anonymous complaint** was made of people living in previously abandoned campers situated next to a stream. ConsCom will contact the property owner and Board of Health.

Other agenda items were moot. Minutes of July 19 and July 28 meetings were approved with amendments. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Aug minutes were approved Sept 20 with one minor change.