

# NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## MEETING AUGUST 18, 2021 MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Chair (via phone); Mike Barry, Charlie Blanker, Robin Conley

Guest: Luke Detwiler representing FirstLight Power

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Robin reported that the Open Space Cmte has begun ordering foot bridge materials for the **Mill Brook Trail restoration**. They meet next Tues., August 24, to plan work dates for installation of the bridges and removal of invasive species.

Tony Wonseki of SVE Associates contacted Mike, stating that he has **filed a NOI for the Anna Santana property** and inquired about the format for the newspaper notice. Mike believes this issue is finally moving in the right direction. Tony will contact the commission soon to schedule a site visit.

Bill stated that he understands the owners of **553 Millers Falls Rd** are requesting we try to determine the cause of the stream diversion. Robin reported that she heard from Nohham that the stream remains diverted, the algae bloom has begun to crystallize and has become more smelly. Robin spoke with Mark Stinson about this situation. Mark said we can knock on neighbors' doors to request walking the stream on their respective properties, and he suggested putting a notice on the community email asking if anyone has had a stream diverted following the July rains. Mike brought in a DEP wetlands map of the area and much discussion ensued. A long driveway has been there for years, so "nothing new." Bill left a message for Mr. Slowick of DEP asking if there is more lab work to test the water at 553 Millers Falls Road, and Robin will contact the next-door neighbor to inquire about the stream on their property.

Charlie and Bill discussed their site visit in 2007-2008 at **Lot 55 D81.1 Hazel Moore/Cross Rd**. An abutter wondered this month if there was a wetlands determination at that time. They made a site visit where there was only a small area where a house could be built. Property owners did not file anything so there was no paperwork for ConCom. Bill left a message for the abutter to that affect.

Meeting was opened to the **RDA of FirstLight Power** regarding removal of debris at tailrace intake structure. Luke Detwiler explained this is in preparation for a major outage next year when the upper reservoir will be fully emptied in order to replace large mechanical parts. Removal of debris and sediment this September will hopefully avoid the spillage of sediment into the CT River that occurred in 2010 during the last reservoir emptying. Davenport Trucking has been hired to clean the intake structure with a clamshell bucket on a crane, which has its own concrete platform, and all sediment and debris trucked off site. Wording of the project description will be changed to clarify Riverfront as including manmade structures within 200' of the river. Wording of project description will also be changed to clarify future work at this site will be considered routine maintenance, hence a utility exemption. Luke will submit a revised project description to EPA and Northfield ConCom. Motion made (Charlie/Robin) and carried to approve the corrected RDA utility exemption cited in the filing. Mike will do follow-up paperwork.

Two letters, one signed and the other unsigned, expressed concerns about the **pond at 173 4-mile Brook Road** "failing" in heavy rainstorms. The signed letter also indicated requested improvements



to the pond in 2002 never occurred. Bill will ask Tom Walker if there are road washouts from the pond. Robin will stop by the property and request that ConCom do a site visit.

Bill received an email regarding the **Pierson Road campground** stating that they are ready to begin building on the property and inquired if there are any remaining issues with ConCom. We discussed the necessity to confirm the 200' delineation from the stream. Bill will request they file an RDA with ConCom and will also request a site visit.

**Minutes** of the July 21 meeting were approved as amended.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Sept. 15, 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Minutes approved 9/15/21 as written. Electronically submitted 9/16/21 to Town Clerk. RC