

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING JULY 28, 2023 MINUTES

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

Charlie opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

We continued to discuss the **Cease & Desist Order** at 15 Millers Falls Road issued by ConsCom. The property owner has not allowed a site visit and has not filed anything. Tori and others spoke with Mark Stinson, DEP director for Western Mass. He suggested that the enforcement letter be amended to a restoration and that the property owner hire a wetlands specialist. ConsCom needs to mail a certified letter to the property owner to such effect. There is a 60-day appeal period for her response. Bill clarified that the corrugated metal culverts were used for temporary crossings over trails that are no longer in use. Motion made (Charlie/Sarah) and carried for ConsCom to send a certified letter to the owner informing her of DEP's recommendations and appeal rights.

Mallory Sullivan is **submitting a Lands Grant Program application** to the Mass Dept of Energy and Environmental Affairs for 53 acres in the Mill Brook wetlands adjacent to the property Northfield owns. Charlie clarified the proposal before us as requiring ConsCom's approval of the grant application, but purchase of the land and associated costs require town approval at Annual Town Meeting. A site visit is planned for Friday, Aug. 25 at 10:30 am. We are to meet in the library parking lot. Motion made (Charlie/Sarah) and carried to approve the application and that the wetlands will be under ConsCom's jurisdiction.

We continued to discuss the **stormwater runoff issues** that occur on Bill and Jill Crooker's property since the adjacent land of a proposed gravel pit was altered. Charlie recommended that the Crookers meet with ZBA regarding this issue, stating that storm water runoff is in violation of the ZBA Order of Conditions. ConsCom will be involved since the trails on King Philip's Hill, which is under the jurisdiction of ConsCom, are also affected. Motion made (Sarah/Tori) and carried to write a letter to ZBA stating our concerns of the storm water runoff coming down King Philip's Hill.

We received a Request for Determination of Applicability (**RDA**) for a **small stream modification** at 877 Old Wendall Road. The intention is for grandchildren's recreation. Much discussion ensued. Motion made (Sarah/Tori) and carried to request a site visit.

Sarah discussed regulations, or lack of regulations and by-laws, of **resource areas in Northfield**. She is interested in a conservation restriction (CR) on the land purchased for the Public Safety Complex on Main Street. She shared that there is a Trails to Main Street movement that encourages trails along contiguous properties linking trails of neighboring towns. Charlie said we should ask the selectboard what, if any, liability issues exist for public trails on town property.

Minutes of the June 22 minutes were accepted with minor changes. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.