

Northfield Conservation Commission Minutes 1/20/10

Monthly Public Meeting – Wednesday, January 20th, 2010 at 7:30pm.

The Northfield Conservation Commission met at the Northfield Town Hall, Room 5b, 69 Main St, Northfield, MA

Present: William Llewelyn, Chairman

Joan Deely

Mike Barry

Charles Blanker

Absent: David Thomas

Staff: Sarah Goodwin, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Tracy Rogers, Northfield Administrative Assistant

Brandon Vickery, Franklin Land Trust

Richard French, Gill Resident, Franklin Land Trust

7:38 Meeting called to Order by W. Llewelyn

7:40 Formal Hearings

Franklin Land Trust – B. Vickery is representing R. French who owns property along French Route 63 and would like to protect it. A similar procedure was just completed in Charlemont through their Conservation Commission in which the land was conserved through the land trust and turned over to the state. B. Vickery believed that the Conservation Commission has the authority to accept the conservation restriction on the land, which C. Blanker confirmed but wanted to clarify if the land was being conserved through the Land Trust or the State. It would be conserved through the Land Trust and would thus need another representative. J. Deely inquired about the current condition of the land and R. French responded that it is being hayed but has no farm animals anymore. Questions were raised about land use after the restriction is placed on it and Vickery responded that ATVs are not normally allowed but snowmobiles would be. Llewelyn asked about taxes changing and currently there's a Chapter 61 placed on it, so the restriction will have little change in the tax base. C. Blanker asked is a landowner in 20 years wanted to buy back the restriction they could not do so. The Board recommended getting a go ahead from the Selectboard and then the Conservation would back their decision.

7:50 Motion C. Blanker made a motion to make a recommendation to the Selectboard to accept the project to place the land along French Route 63 in Conservation Restriction. J. Deely second the motion, all in favor. Motion carried. A letter will be written to the Selectboard to convey the Board's strong support of this project.

First Light Determination of Applicability for Removal of Debris and Maintenance of their Tailrace – The Board gave them a "Negative Determination" in 2007. No Notice in the Paper was seen or information included nor any representation present. The Board agreed contact First Light and setup a review for Feb. meeting.

7:55 Guest Speakers

Tracy Rogers presented herself to the Board to say hello and meet everyone. Board members request she start the process of locating more members.

8:05 Citizen Concerns

Public Records Request – Northfield Building Inspector requested any documentation in regard to this property, owned by Caleb Dillensneider, for structure construction or driveway building. No files were found in the Conservation Commission's records and the none of the Board members recall any formal wetlands requests for this property coming before them. M. Barry confirmed driving by the property there were concerns about the driveway location to the wetlands. The Board remembers an informal sight visit three years ago to check out the property, but was given an proposed construction site outside the range of jurisdiction and recalls stressing that should any construction take place within the wetland zone Formal paperwork would need to be filed.

Livestock Farm – J. Deely was contacted by a resident about property over on Glen Rd, behind the post office, the land is completely cleared all the way down to the brook and they now plan to put pigs on it. Concern for the clearing and animal run off into the wetland has been brought up but the Board would have to make out a formal

request for applicability if the resident who brought this forward wished to remain anonymous. Members reviewed property charts in order to get a better idea of the property lines and possible impacts. C. Blanker suggests the Board send a the property owner letting them know of a citizen's complaint in regard to the land clearing on their property impacting the wetlands and requesting permission conduct a sight visit before making an actual determination of Applicability.

8:26 Old Business

Ethics Law Reform – All Board members must complete the online ethics test and submit completed test documentation to the Town Clerk. The online testing must be completed by April 2nd. Meetings must be posted 48 hours before without including Saturdays and email is now considered part of the deliberations of a Board as long as it goes to all members.

Pine Street Anonymous Letter from Oct. - Board members drive by for an informal sight review, but land owner could not be determined and land could not be seen under snow. Another informal sight review to occur again in the Spring once snow's gone.

8:33 Reading and Approval of Previous Minutes

Board Members signed October 21th, 2009 Meeting Minutes. To be turned into Town Secretary for archiving. Meeting Minutes from November 18th reviewed and corrected.

8:42 Motion by C. Blanker approved minutes presented with amendments. J. Deely 2nd by cracky, all in favor. Motion passed.

8:43 Budget

Administrative Assistant Hours – 9 hrs.

FY 2011 Budget Request – Finance committee requesting next year's budget with a reduction of 5% off the bottom line. C. Blanker filled out the form during the meeting and will submit after the meeting.

8:48 Motion C. Blanker moved to request a budget of \$1,775.00 with a reduction of \$88 which would be the requested 5% reduction, keeping wages level from the previous year and reducing postage & workshops. M. Barry second the motion, all in favor. Motion carried.

8:56 New Business

Forest Cutting Plans – NMH (Old Warwick Rd), Walter Jaworski ("inholding", off Warwick Rd), Edward & Susan Hyrne (676 Mount Hermon Station Rd)

9:00 Mail

Town Memos – gas mileage & ZBA meetings

Organization fliers and newsletters

Umass Keystone Project, April 15th-18th – J. Deely described it as a weekend long program about land protection and forest management and it's designed to get key figures from towns to take the information and use it in their town's projects. Highly recommended, being one of the best programs J. Deely had ever been to.

9:05 Calls and Emails

None

9:15 Adjournment W. Llewelyn moved to adjourn, C. Blanker 2nd by gum. Meeting adjourned.