



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

May 8, 2019
7:00 pm to 9:20 pm

In Attendance

- Barbara DeVore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochele
- Ann Moser
- Rosanna Nadeau
- Matt Robinson-Liu

Ann moved we accept April minutes. Bob L seconded. Passed unanimously.

Rosanna moved we accept minutes of our special meeting on 4/24. Bob L seconded. Passed unanimously.

Received a bill from the **Monadnock Ledger-Transcript for \$51.25** for the announcement of the special meeting held on 4/24. Liz moved we pay the bill. Bob L seconded. Passed unanimously. Money to come from the Conservation General Fund.

Received a bill from **Bellefetes for \$158.38** for materials to be used for constructing signs for conservation lands. Liz moved we pay the bill. Anna seconded. Passed unanimously. Money to come from the Conservation General Fund.

Bob D gave an update on the SBH project. LCHIP intent-to-apply was submitted on 5/1, and LCHIP replied a few days later inviting us to submit a full application. Bob D and Barbara hosted a visit to the property by representatives of PLC's land protection committee. PLC will be discussing the project at their meeting on 5/9. Bob D and Liz surveyed the property for vernal pools over three days. They discovered, documented, and mapped ten confirmed vernal pools and four additional potential pools.

Held public hearing to present information related to the purchase of B-4-2 as conservation land. 15 members of the public attended. Several folks asked questions, and enthusiasm was generally high and in favor of the project.

Bob D and Bob L determined that the road-side corner markers for B-4-2 are gone. Bob L will follow up with an RFP and contractor contact.

Regarding an official e-mail address, we agreed we'd like to use "ConsComm@...".

Reviewed proposals for wetlands study from Ecosystem Management Consultants (Rick Van de Poll) and Kane Conservation (Chris Kane and Dan Geiger). After discussion, Rosanna moved that we accept the proposal from Kane Conservation. Anna seconded. Passed unanimously, with Barbara recusing herself.

Reviewed proposals for Phase I Environmental Site Assessment from SRW Environmental Consulting, GeoInsight, and Nobis. After discussion, Bob L moved we accept the proposal from SRW Environmental Consulting. Bob D seconded. Passed unanimously, with Barbara recusing herself. The SRW proposal includes a vapor encroachment screening that we don't need, so Bob D will ask if the price is lower without that.

Discussed whether the CC should appeal the alteration-of-terrain permit for the Burbee gravel operation in Brookline. Planned gravel removal near the town line could potentially cause erosion on the Fifield Tree Farm. Bob D asked: If we don't appeal, and erosion does affect the Fifield property, would the CC as the easement holder be required to take action? Liz will pass this question on to LCHIP.

Discussed the current status of the draft Conservation Plan. Liz recently learned that we can proceed on our own by having a hearing to which we invite relevant town boards, and can then incorporate comments received and vote to adopt the plan ourselves. Decided to schedule the hearing for July 9.

Barbara reports four persons suspected of spray-painting the Jackson Rd. rail trail trestle will be in court on charges tomorrow.

The lease on the A-frame expires at the end of June; time to renew it. We are considering a rent increase, and discussed at length factors to consider in determining the amount of increase (if any). Ann is following up with Dennis to learn what repairs and improvements he's made since we last renewed the lease (2015), and also research typical costs for similar rental properties. Agreed to invite him to next month's meeting to discuss the lease.

Liz suggested the CC should agree to be a local partner for the Mason Energy Committee's (MEC) "Button Up" workshop on Sept. 12. All agreed.

Barbara brought up the question of water pumping at the working quarry on Starch Mill Rd. It's possible they're pumping water out of a flooded part of the quarry. If so, where's the water going? According to Barbara, this happened a few years ago and the sediment poisoned Spaulding Brook for over a year.

Regarding the clearcut at the Rowse property, Ann talked with Sam Rouse about increased water runoff on the Florence Roberts Forest. Mr. Rouse stated he's willing to take care of any problems caused by his operation.