

Conservation Commission – September 24, 2011

Members present were co-chairs Mr. Ned Wilson & Mr. John Weinstein, & Mr. Tom Coote; meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

Meeting minutes of August 27th were approved as amended.

Mr. Tom Coote recused himself from the meeting for Biber Hearing.

Biber Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Tom Coote. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of repairing a dam less than 100 cyd and dredging. Property location is 913 Clayton Mill River Road. Mr. Coote states that area had work done in 2001, work will be done when area is dry, machine will not enter stream, dredge materials will be taken away by Wilkinson's. The commission review DEP comments with Mr. Coote and Mr. Coote states that the Army Corp said that this project is non-jurisdictional. Mr. Coote would like the commission to have one of the conditions be when the dam can be open and closed. A motion was made to close this hearing. Motion passes. A motion was made, seconded to approve with hearing with the following conditions:

- a. after excavation, the dredged material must not be placed within a resource area, including the floodplain.
- b. applicant must provide confirmation from the Army Corps of Engineers that they do not wish to do a Category 2 review.
- c. the dewatering plan must be followed per the provided narrative.
- d. excavator's truck must be limited to a single 20' wide foot print running from the driveway to the bank, the track will be hayed when finished. Creating the emergency sluice will disturb approximately 20 square feet of the bank; that area must also be hayed when finished.
- e. The valve must be closed annually between May 1st and June 1st, based on when the spring rains eased. The annual opening of the valve must be between October 15th and November 15th. In event of an impending hurricane or other extreme weather, the valve can be opened temporarily, even if it is not during the annual window.

Motion passed.

Mr. Coote rejoining the meeting.

Berkshire Natural Resource Council Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Doug Bruce. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of land-clearing and associated herbicide, goal is to improve habitat for species in decline. Property location is Steepletop Reserve (Stump Road). Mr. Bruce states that they will use herbicide that is wetland approved to control non-native plants, and would like to do cutting in the winter per DCR order, work to be done by hand, stumps will not be removed, possible use a trac skitter or a big tire vehicle. Also discussed that the herbicide and materials used for this project will be wetland approved, and use as little chemicals as possible (rodeo), spot treatment. Applicant asked for a

continuance of this hearing. A motion was made, seconded to continue this hearing. Motion passes.

Mr. Wilson states that meet with Mr. Mike Skorput, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen to discuss Town Hall renovations, that including taking out a window and installing a new entrance for the Town Hall with a ramp.

Mr. Wilson also mentioned that he has spoken with Mr. Paul Clark of Mill River Great Barrington Road regarding installing new siding for his barn.

Reviewed mail:

- a. Received a RDA – Odegaard – Norfolk Rd
- b. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program – re: Berkshire Natural Resource Council re: NOI.
- c. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program – re: Hackett/Schlink – East Hill Road – no issues.
- d. Forest Cutting Plan – Levin – Rhoades & Bailey Road.
- e. MACC annual calendar.
- f. Trustees of reservations – re: training class on 9/17.
- g. MACC quarterly news –fall.
- h. Memo – department head meeting.

The Commission reviewed maps of Hatchery Road work project.

No other business was brought before the commission, so voted to adjourn at 11:08 AM.

Next regular scheduled meeting is October 29th at 10AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary