

Charlemont Conservation Committee
January 9th, 2025, 7:00 PM
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Bill Harker, Thorne Palmer, Clay Herbert, Scott Randall, Andrea Santos

Others Participating: Star Atkeson (secretary)

On Phone: Laura Josephs

Thorne Palmer opened the meeting at 7:04 PM

Action items:

1. Review / Approve Minutes from December 12, 2024

Bill Harker motioned to approve the minutes as written. Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. 180 8A car removal receipt review

There is no receipt to look at. Brian had come in to talk to Thorne about it. He is confident that he can clean up the cars that are in the resource area by the deadline in May. He did move some cars away from the brook. Thorne let him know that he shouldn't plan on moving the cars to other areas of their properties, because that may cause problems with other Boards. The focus should be on removing the cars. The snow and the freezing conditions are an impediment. The Board tried to decide where to go from here. They suggested doing a site inspection in March or April, and/or going up now and taking pictures. Thorne would like to go up and take pictures and get an idea of what his plan is. He'll call.

Discussion items:

1. Mohawk Park emergency road issue.

Thorne found the section of MGL that pertains to the situation and read it aloud. He suggests writing the letter and quoting the MGL. The law says that he needs to get a permit, and it is on him to prove that his activity doesn't negatively alter conditions

downstream. They don't want him to bring in any fill for the road. If he then breaks the law, they will do a Cease and Desist. They will call Mark Stinson.

2. Letter from Jonathan Mirin re: National Grid pole project

Laura Josephs read Jonathan Mirin's letter to the Board over the phone. They discussed the project. National grid had scheduled their NOI to be at this meeting which was why Jonathan sent the letter. The Bear Swamp Feeder NOI had been rescheduled to the next meeting. Andrea is not sure that it is ConComm business.

3. Annual Budget Request

The ConComm had spent \$152 of their \$200 budget for FY 25. **Clay Herbert made a motion to keep the FY26 budget at \$200. Andrea Santos seconded the motion. All in favor.**

4. Zoar Road mobile home park, concern about car repair near wetlands.

Bill said there are a bunch of junky cars all over the park, but no wetlands. It isn't the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction.

5. New FEMA floodplain maps to review and comment on.

The Board looked at some of the maps. There were some technical difficulties getting the maps to load and figuring out what was what. In general, they looked fine.

6. Question about 470 Legate Hill tree clearing in light of 432 Legate Hill Rd positive RDA

The Board looked at the map of 470 legate Hill Rd, they saw the area of clearing and saw the hydrologic connection. Clay said they need to wait until spring to see what was going on. **Thorne Palmer made a motion to table the issue until May. Clay seconded the motion. All in favor.**

7. DLTA Request form

The Board chose GIS mapping of floodprone areas. Star will let Sarah know.

Bill Harker made a motion to close the meeting at 9:09. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2025.

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of January 9, 2025
- Minutes of December 12, 2024
- Letter to the ConComm from Jonathan Mirin dated 1/2/2025 re: Avery Brook Road Pole project
- Draft FEMA floodplain maps of Charlemont
- MassMapper Screenshot showing 432 and 470 Legate Hill Rd and the hydrologic connection.