

**Charlemont Conservation Committee**  
**May 8th, 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) Mark Stinson, Honora Tisell

Thorne Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**Appointments:**

**7:00** Honora Tisell on behalf of National Grid to discuss Bear Swamp Feeder pole project Notice of Intent Honora went over the scope of the 7 mile long National Grid pole Project. There will be 124 tree removals. Clay said that most of the trees were hazard trees that would have been removed anyways.

Andrea asked if there would be mitigation and restoration of the trees. They would need to be planted elsewhere. Bill said that the town can ask for trees, it has been done before. Mark said it would need to be part of the conditions. Some Towns get money for each tree removed. Honora confirmed that trees removed from private property are being permissioned by the landowner.

Mark said riverfront regulations require improvement over existing conditions, which could be to add vegetation along the river to offset the loss of trees.

The Board would like National Grid to plant the trees. The Board decided that 50 trees was a fair number, using the 2 for 1 ration on the non-nuisance trees. They will write in the order of Conditions that up to 50 trees shall be planted by Grid with the Species and location to be determined by the conservation Commission. They would also like to be notified 48 hours in advance of the start of work.

**Clay Herbert made a motion to close the hearing. Bill Harker seconded the motion, All in favor.**

**Clay Herbert made a motion to accept the plans (Notice of Intent) with the 2 special conditions as discussed. Thorne Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor.**

**Action items:**

1. Review / Approve Minutes from April 10, 2025

**Bill Harker made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.**

2. 180 8A update

Dupree said there was rain and mud, he only sold 2 vehicles and scrapped more. The net weight of parts 9,280 is the equivalent to about 3 cars. He has 1 month and three weeks to finish. June 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day. Thorne will call Dupree. Clay said it looked 100 times better than it was. He is around 30

cars behind schedule. They weren't able to do it in the mud. The Board spoke about the cars in the woods, and up the bank up the brook.

3. Mohawk Park update the area in question at Mohawk Park is currently underwater. They have not seen any activity. If there is, it will be disturbing the river. The road is not necessary for the Fire Department to access. Mark gave some names of wetlands scientists that could help Fantucchio do a batched NOI. There should be no activity on the lower road. There is no reason for emergency vehicles to use it. The Public Water Supply was brought up, the question of the location of the well.

4. 470 Legate Hill, abutting property, visit update

The Board went over the situation at the property. They had rescheduled the site visit for later in the summer, so that the vegetation is there to determine if there is a wetland vegetative community. He said his property is wetter since the neighbor cut the trees. Mark advised the Board to tell him that he should hire someone. No one on the board is a wetlands scientist, it is a civil issue and not the job of the Conservation Commission. The Concomm should not be in the middle of it.

**Clay Herbert made a motion to send a letter telling Andy Mueller to hire a professional. Scott Randall seconded the motion, All in favor.**

**Andrea Santos motioned to close the meeting at 6:57. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor**

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of May 8, 2025
- Minutes of April 10, 2025
- Bear Swamp Feeder Notice of Intent
- Dupree receipt