

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes from Tuesday June 13,2023
The meeting was held remotely via zoom.
Under the executive order from the Governor

Members present: Ernie Smith-Chair, Tom Potter-Vice-Chair, Karen O'Donnell, Ron Veillette,
Shep Evans-agent

Members Absent: Adam Weinberg, Rebecca Lord, Pat Seckler

Other Participants: Robert Ahern, Eileen Martin, Marine Carroll, James Shoemaker

1. Mr. Smith opened the meeting at 6:30PM and stated that the meeting was being recorded. He asked if there were any questions about the minutes of May 9th,2023. There were no issues with the minutes, so he requested a member to make a motion for approval. Mr. Potter made a motion to approve the minutes, it was seconded by Ms. O'Donnell and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Discussion of a request from Stockman Associates to extend the planting deadline for the restoration area at 159 Willow Road to October 15, 2023.

Ms. Stockman was not present, so Mr. Evans explained the request to the members. There was a long delay in the approval of the restoration plan so that meant that they could not start the restoration process as soon as they wanted so there is a requirement for the extension for the completion of the restoration planting. Mr. Evans stated he thought it was a logical request. Ms. O'Donnell made a motion to extend the completion of the restoration planting to October 15, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Potter and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The delay was because the owner did not respond to the commission with a plan as requested by the commission Enforcement order June 25 2019.

3.Request for Certificate of Compliance from Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, DEP File 271-0207. Property is a 38.4-acre wetland adjacent to Fairfield Brook, off the east side of Swamp Road, Map 408 Lot 104.2

Mr. Potter explained this was a restoration project funded from GE damages claim. Mr. Evans stated that more work might be necessary as a follow-up to what was done previously and prior to doing the new work a Certificate of Compliance has to be issued regarding work already done. This is work being done for the restoration of rare and endangered species. Mr. Potter stated that over 1300 acres in Berkshire County has been restored through funds received from the GE damages claim(having to do with the PCB contamination). Mr. Potter made a motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance, it was seconded by Mr. Veillette and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Notice of Intent (DEP File # 271-0236) from S-K Design Group on behalf of J. Kenneth Kruvant. Property at 2276 Swamp Road, Map 408 Lot 146. The proposed work is demolition and removal of an existing barn and construction of a new structure of the same size in the same footprint and location.

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Matt Putin (S-K Design Group) spoke on behalf of the applicant. He displayed an aerial view of the property for the members to view. He explained the layout of the property and the surrounding area. Mr. Putin then displayed the proposed plan for the new building and the restoration work. He spoke about the new project and its relationship to Cone Brook and the riverfront resource area and bordering wetlands. They will be demolishing the existing building(barn) and replacing in the footprint a building which will be used as a guest house. Mr. Putin stated it will have two bedrooms, a living room and bathroom but no kitchen facility. The building does fall within the outer 100ft riverfront zone. There will be two slight additions to the footprint, a covered entrance and a bulkhead for accessing the basement. The plans call for a greater than 2 to 1 ratio of rehabilitation to augment the 90sq.ft. of disturbance that the new additions will be creating. The project calls for 200sq. ft. of riverfront rehabilitation. Mr. Putin stated that the Board of Health has signed off on the construction of a new septic for the building and that when DEP assigned the project a file number no comments were sent along with it. Mr. Veillette asked if they intend to use the original foundation and he was told a new foundation will be put in. Mr. Evans asked if they had applied for a building permit. Mr. Putin stated that he has not, his method is to get all other required permits prior to going for a building permit. He stated that they will have to get a special permit from either the planning board or zoning board prior to the building permit. Mr. Veillette asked about any culverts that might be within the project area, any that drain into Cone Brook or wetlands. Mr. Putin stated he didn't know of any, he then looked at google earth and stated that there was a culvert but that it is not within the project area. He looked at it after Mr. Shoemaker stated that a culvert did run under Swamp Road into Cone Brook.

Several abutters to the property spoke about the fact that there will be two septic systems on the one property and if a second house was allowed according to town bylaws. Mr. Smith stated that all those concerns were not within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission that other boards and committees had jurisdiction over those matters. The abutters have requested that the members conduct a site visit. Mr. Veillette made a motion to continue the hearing to the July 11, 2023, meeting but that a site visit take place prior to the meeting and that S-K Design provide an updated plan that includes the drainage culvert. Mr. Potter seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Other Business:

Mr. Veillette asked that an agenda item of new items that was not known to the chair 48hours prior to the meeting be put back on to the monthly agenda.

Ms. O'Donnell asked Mr. Evans if work had started on the View Drive, DCR project. He stated that they have begun removing invasive species of plants from the area. He told them that DCR will be giving the Commission periodic updates on the progress of the work. He did state that it will take several years for the project to be completed .

Ms. O'Donnell made a motion at 7:18 to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Potter and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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Ernie Smith -Chair

__7/12/23_____

Date