

**Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
April 25, 2022 6:00 PM**

**Commission Members in attendance:** Dick Gates, Colleen Doyle, Jon Piper, and Nate Maynard.

**Others in Attendance:** John Kelly (resident)

**I. New Business**

**a. Potential Solar Project off of Gibbs Rd.**

Discussions have been taking place regarding a potential new large scale solar project in the general area between Long Pond and Blair Rd.. The proposed project would lease 586 acres of land from Hull Forest Products and would require a right of way from the town to tie into transmission lines off of North Blandford Rd.. A potential of 200-500 acres of land would require clear-cutting.

**b. Hay Cutting at Knittel Conservation Area Fields**

The Commission discussed the annual haying of the Knittel Conservation Fields and continuing with the arrangement they have had with Dave Ripley and Dave Hopson.

**D Gates made a motion to allow Dave Ripley to hay the lower half of the fields and for Dave Hopson to hay the upper half of the fields in the Knittel Conservation Parcel as in years past. C Doyle seconded and it was passed unanimously.**

**c. Informational Kiosks – Springfield Sewer and Water**

Nicole Sanford from the Springfield Sewer and Water approached the Commission regarding a potential parking area and informational kiosk at the Westcott Conservation Area off of North Blandford Rd.. The watershed parcels were purchased with state grants and require passive recreational access to the public. The area is determined to be non-jurisdictional for WPA.

**D Gates made a motion to approve the parking area and informational kiosk off of North Blandford Rd. without the need for an ROI / NOI. J Piper seconded and it was unanimously approved.**

**II. Continuing Business**

**a. Review status of the Belle Fleur site (Mass DEP File # 111-059)**

The installed silt fences are holding back run-off and grass is beginning to sprout. D Gates received an email from the lawyer from Construction Source LLC, the former general contractor for Belle Fleur, stating that they would be discharging all permits and liability for the site. Commission will continue monitoring the installation of erosion controls and compliance with the OOC.

**b. Rt. 23 Potential WPA Violations**

Sheep Gate property owner identified. Letter of inquiry regarding potential site work within riverfront area or wetlands will be issued.

**D Gates made a motion to send a letter of inquiry regarding potential WPA violations at 146 Otis Stage Rd.. J Piper seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.**

**c. Town of Blandford – N. Blandford Rd. Project**

D. Gates has met with D. Waldron to identify culverts that need to be replaced and whether they would require permitting. There were 12 culverts inspected and 4 were determined to be cross culverts that are non-jurisdictional. The 4 non-jurisdictional culverts will be the only ones replaced at this time.

**d. PASS Mitigation Project: Gibbs Rd.**

There is one culvert replacement on Gibbs Rd. that is being proposed as the mitigation project for previous solar site (PASS) wetland violations. Kirt Mayland, of Reservoir Holdings LLC., has been reaching out directly to D. Waldron regarding collaboration on the proposed culvert work. The Commission feels that communication should be directly with DEP, the Commission, or Select Board until DEP issues a finalized mitigation plan. DEP has declined any communication on the matter until mitigation details are resolved.

**e. ConCom Position Vacancy**

J Letendre has submitted a formal resignation from the Commission.

**III. Other**

**a. Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments**

John Kelly attended the meeting with questions regarding the Commissions involvement in the proposed zoning bylaw amendments. ConCom had not been involved in the proposed changes and did not have immediate information to provide beyond what was stated in the notice of public hearing.

*Matthew  
John K Piper  
William Piper  
Richard Gate*