

**Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission Minutes
May 23, 2022 6:00 PM**

Commission Members in attendance: Dick Gates and Nate Maynard; John Piper via conference call.

Others in Attendance: Dave Waldron (Hwy Superintendent).

I. Continuing Business

a. Potential New Solar Site off Gibbs Rd.

No new updates regarding this proposed project.

b. Finalize Springfield Sewer and Water's RDAs

ConCom signed off on the two SSW RDAs that were determined to be exempt (submitted by N Sanford at the previous meeting).

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

Site inspection took place on 5/12 and numerous problems with erosion controls and compliance with the OOC were observed. Runoff had breached some of the straw bales and sediment was observed in the BVW (including sprouting grass from hydroseeding). More erosion controls need to be installed to prevent runoff in future rainfall events. Based upon the site inspection on 5/12, ConCom issued an Enforcement Order on 5/16 to fortify and enhance erosion controls in order to be in compliance with the OOC.

D Gates made a motion to ratify the Enforcement Order issued for Belle Fleur on 5/16/22. J Piper seconded and it was passed unanimously.

More Updates from Belle Fleur project:

Revised project plans have been submitted and include downsizing the footprint and scale of the building. D Cardarelli emailed D Gates inquiring whether a new NOI or updated OOC would need to be issued. Foresight LLC had recommended an amended OOC as a reasonable compromise.

Belle Fleur provided a response to the Enforcement Order on May 19th that outlined their corrective actions. ConCom felt the response was appropriate, but would like to know how the sediment will be removed from the BVW (and potential impacts). They will have two weeks to implement their response after approval by ConCom.

D Gates made a motion to accept the proposed corrective measures made by Belle Fleur in response to the Enforcement Order issued with the condition that the procedure for sediment removal be outlined. J Piper seconded and it was passed unanimously.

d. **Other Potential Violations on Rt. 23**

D Gates and C Doyle conducted a site inspection at 146 Otis Stage Rd. (former SheepGate property). The owner is regrading the property around the home to address drainage issues. All work is outside of the 200' riverfront area and is non-jurisdictional for ConCom.

e. **Drainage Issues Nye Brook / Huntington Rd.**

Town is looking into grants to assist with culvert work. Questions arose whether this could be applied to mitigate the runoff issues occurring at Nye Brook.

f. **Long Pond and Shepard Farm Updates**

D Waldron has been assisting with the development of a parking area at the Long Pond Conservation Parcel. Work still needs to be scheduled to follow up with trail creation at the site. ConCom completed a questionnaire sent out by MA DCR regarding the CR status at Shepard Farm. Questions still remain about how the town would like to best utilize this property.

g. **Update on Solar Sites**

PASS on North Blandford Rd. is still in enforcement and has not been resolved. No progress with the culvert replacement / mitigation project that has been in limbo with DEP and PASS. Blandford Sun Project on Otis Stage Rd. has placed 100 acres in CR with passive recreational access.

II. **Other**

a. **Beaver Issues and Flooding on Town Roads**

D Waldron met with a drone operator to document the beaver dams and subsequent flooding issues in town. They were able to capture photo and video documentation of the beaver dams along Gibbs, Blair, and Cobble Mtn Rds. and adjacent wetlands. This information will be shared with town counsel to assist in navigating the response and potential collaboration with Springfield Sewer and Water.

b. **DCR: Beulah Land Rd.**

DCR is planning logging operations and has a plan in place that has received approval from the state forester.


John R. Piper
Allen Dwyer
Michael Gate