

**Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission Minutes
April 10, 2023 6:00 PM**

Commission Members in attendance: Dick Gates, Colleen Doyle, and Nate Maynard. John Piper on conference call.

Others in Attendance: Nicole Sanford and Frank Zaboneh of Springfield Sewer and Water.

I. New Business

a. Request for Determination – Springfield Sewer and Water Commission

N Sanford stated that a landslide occurred on the East slope of the Borden Brook Spillway and Reservoir. Massachusetts Dam Safety authorities were contacted and it was determined that there was no threat to the stability of the dam. SSWC would like to clear trees atop the landslide site to prevent further erosion and to remove trees in the river channel using cables and skidders. SSWC believes that the work is exempt under the WPA. F Zaboneh stated that this is only the first mitigative step and that SSWC is working with consulting firms to determine how to fully stabilize the slope. There is no danger to the dam now, but they need to prevent continued migration towards the dam. Next steps will be addressed with ConCom as they are developed.

D Gates made a motion that the proposed mitigative work at the Borden Brook Spillway is exempt and does not require and that Commission issue a Negative Determination. Colleen seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

b. Vernal Pool Certification

D Gates and N Maynard are planning to look for three potential vernal pools (as identified on Mass Mapper): two located on Knittel Conservation Land and one on SSWC land. The goal is to survey and document the pools to submit for official state certification. There is a potential of including students in the survey work. N Sanford stated that an email with participant names could be sent for approval to conduct the surveys on SSWC land.

II. Continuing Business

a. Continue review of proposed Belle Fleur Marijuana Facility modifications received 2/8/23(File# 111-0060), including issues identified in email from the Commission to Belle Fleur dates 2/16/23

D Gates emailed M. Lavasseur of Foresight Land Services regarding the proposed tree cutting. The response was to ignore the previous tree markings and that the proposed trees are currently flagged with ribbon.

- ConCom is planning to conduct a site visit this week to review the flagged trees.
- The new construction general permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) are current and listed on the EPA website.

- Questions regarding Seth Taylor labeling "Observation Report" when the form states it differently.
- D Gates has reviewed the revised SWPPP and indicated it is acceptable.

b. MA –DOT, 20 Woronoco Road (Route 23) Request for Determination for placement of one utility pole (Continued from 11/14/22 meeting).

There continues to be questions regarding this site location. DOT may be the owner of the property adjacent to the wetlands, not the town of Blandford, but this is still being determined.

c. PASS Solar Site – North Blandford Road

The town will be receiving \$15,000 for culvert work on Gibbs Rd. as mitigative work for WPA violations as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). J Piper voiced concerns regarding the scope of the penalty and that it was originally supposed to include the full replacement of the culvert; not payment for the town to do the work and potentially costing more. It was agreed that while not ideal, it has been a long time to come to any settlement and that the Town would send an appropriate letter to DEP accepting the funds for the culvert project.

d. Status of Conservation Agent

This is still being discussed between the town and PVPC but there are no new updates at the moment.

e. Conway School proposal for Shepard Farm

Meeting scheduled for this Wednesday at 4pm. D Gates and N Maynard will be attending via Zoom.

f. George Millard Solar Site

The Determination of Applicability for this project has expired. The Developer will be notified that a new RDA will be required if the project moves forward.

g. Blandford Ski

The Order of Condition (OOC) issued by the BCC expired on March 4, 2023 and is no longer valid. Blandford Ski owners will be notified that a Request for Certificate of Compliance (COC) will be needed to close out the OOC.

Andy Dyer 4/24
John & Piper
Matthew
Richard Gates