

**Town of Blandford  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
May 22, 2023 6:00 PM**

**Commission Members in attendance:** Dick Gates, Colleen Doyle, John Piper

**Others in Attendance:** Rolandy Romelus (Belle Fleur) Amer Raza (Mass DOT)

Minutes: The Commission voted to accepted minutes from the April 24 and May 8 meetings as drafted

**New Business**

Belle Fleur (Mass DEP File # 111-0059) D. Gates discussed alternatives available to the Commission to facilitate full compliance with the Amended Order of Conditions (AOOC). This review is being undertaken as a result of the Commission visiting the site several times and observing that that compliance issues outlined in an email sent to Belle Fleur on 2/16/23 had not been addressed and also due to ensuing conversations with the owner of Belle Fleur.

The alternatives discussed were:

- 1) Do nothing.
- 2) Revoke the AOOC as allowed by General Condition #1.
- 3) Issue a Stop Work Notice as allowed by Special Condition #25.
- 4) Identify a third party consultant to conduct a Compliance Assessment of the site on Behalf of the Commission.

After some discussion about these alternatives, D. Gates made a motion to proceed with Option #4 above. John Piper seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Continuing Business**

Re-open Public Hearing -Mass DOT, 20 Woronoco Road (Route 23), Request for Determination for placement of one utility pole. This Public Hearing had been continued several times due to confusion over ownership of the parcel where the pole is to be placed. Mass DOT conducted research and determined that they in fact own the parcel in question. D. Gates contacted the Blandford Assessors office and they confirmed that Mass DOT owns the parcel. D Gates made a motion for negative determination due to exemption provided at 310 CMR 10.02 (2) b. 2. h. John Piper seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Park Avenue Solar Solutions (PASS) Settlement Negotiations with Mass DEP. R. Gates explained that a settlement has been reached that includes PASS funding a culvert replacement at Gibbs Road as the mitigation component.

Mass DOT Request for COC – Mass Turnpike Culvert Project (File # 111- 0055). R. Gates reported that this remains in the information gathering phase as there are several pieces of this to be sorted out.

Status of Conservation Agent Position -- R. Gates reported that the position has been posted and we are waiting for responses from potential candidates.

Update on vernal Pools—waiting for summer (dry) conditions to take some additional photographs.

Update on Conway School project for Shephard Farm- Two students have been identified for the project and they will visit the site and conduct meetings to gather input from Town residents pertaining the project.

John A. Ligon  
MMD  
Richard W. Gates