

TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING Minutes

For the Westhampton Conservation Commission meeting on February 2, 2022 at 7:00 P.M

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Fred, Bill, Jessica (recording)

Also present: Alyson Arnold, Jean Stawarz, and John Egan (Beaver Solutions LLC)

1. Call to Order: 7:17 pm
2. Accept Minutes meeting of: January 19, 2022
3. Review correspondence: Emails regarding beaver dam issues at 28 Crowley Rd., Jean Stawarz, property owner, and Mike Callahan and John Egan of Beaver Solutions LLC;

Emails with Doug Finn regarding Cons Com budget increase;

Forest Cutting Plan: Lyman Rd., c/o Dave Conti, Holyoke Water Works, 55 acres

4. Old/Ongoing Business:

5. New Business:

28 Crowley Rd., Jean Stawarz, property owner—possible NOI necessary to “level” beaver dam on property; John Egan (Beaver Solutions LLC) reports on specifics/problems and potential permitting issues:

John Egan explains situation and possible remedies: water level may be managed by installing 10” pipe; beavers would maintain dam, but water level will remain in control; homeowner’s property threatened by flooding and tree removal, which may affect the situation; potential flooding a serious issue; orchard existent; no permit necessary now; permit likely necessary in spring as pond is encroaching on property, which threatens home, orchard, and business; Jean Stawarz reports on the situation, showing images;

Not currently an emergency, but certainly needs to be managed.

Fred asks about potential damage to wetland? The situation doesn’t seem to pose a problem. Likely OOC necessary, not NOI; Cons Com will visit site, but approves Beaver Solution’s efforts to mitigate situation at this time, no permits currently required, wait until spring (late March-early April) to revisit the issue regarding possible application for emergency permit.

Next steps: site visit and another meeting;

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Town Administrator, Doug Finn, has increased Cons Com budget to \$660/year to attend trainings, etc.

Motion made to hold Executive Session: motion made by Fred to vote on nomination to Cons Com:

Begins at: 8:07 pm

Ends at: 8:16

Cons Com makes motion to vote to approve selection of Alyson Arnold as new member to Commission: Cons Com will submit letter to Doug Finn regarding our decision, and he will notify Selectboard; final approval pending; Jessica will write letter to Doug and will contact Kurt Heidinger (all correspondences cc'd to all commissioners)

6. Agenda next mtg to Town Clerk's mailbox: Agenda/Notice will be sent to Town Clerk for February 16, 2022

7. Adjourn:8:18 pm