

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE
TUESDAY 11 April 2023
7:00pm, Stockbridge, MA – Town Hall & Remote via Zoom

Present: Ron Brouker [presiding], Lisa Bozzuto, John Hart, Joe DeGiorgis, Bill Loutrel, Chuck Kohrer, Jamie Minacci, Sally Underwood-Miller

Also present: Rachel Childers, Jay Rhind, Marie Raftery, David Cameron, Denny Alsop, Anthony Damiano, Tom Lewis, Bob Fournier

Lisa Bozzuto made a motion to approve minutes from Tuesday, 28 March. Chuck Kohrer seconded. John Hart abstained. Motion passed. 7-0-1

Denny Alsop came in to talk to the Commission about the GE PCB cleanup effort, along with the plans to create a dump site in Lee. He first became involved with the concerns regarding the toxic nature of the PCBs and other chemicals used by Power Transformer in 1991 when he attended a meeting at Benno Freidman's house in 1991. Subsequent studies lead to a major undertaking along the river in Pittsfield to try to remediate the toxic nature of the residual chemicals. The landfill in Lee will be composed of approximately 20 acres 165' high and will contain the sediment pumped out of Woods Pond, which serves currently as a settling pond. There are questions as to the viability of the liners proposed to contain the sediment. 70% of the PCBs will remain in the river. Stockbridge signed an agreement for the settlement. If the Town were to change its mind, it could result in the nullification of the part GE has agreed to, leaving the fate of the contamination in limbo. Several years ago, local veterinarians noted that 70% of the cancer in pets were living within 200' of the river. Samples were sent to Dr. Moore at Tufts University for analysis. Mass Fish and Wildlife has noted that mink are not reproducing at optimal levels. Annual flooding can cause the PCBs to be deposited in the flood zone, including the Stockbridge Golf Course. Commissioners requested a copy of the studies done on pets to begin the investigation as to what the risks may be for those living and/or recreating proximate to the river.

Request for Certificate of Compliance – Bernard Haan, 16 Beachwood Drive. Map 104, Lot 102. DEP#296-0457. (Creative Building Solutions) Continued pending resolution of violation. Review in June.

Notice of Intent – Scott & Mary Ann Goodell, 15 Lakeview Drive. Replace piers, porch, dock addition. (Greylock) Continued. Need copy of Select Board deed restriction requirement.

National Grid's Notice of Intent off of Clark Road proposes the installation/replacement of phone/electric poles. (GZA) They are proposing 5 new poles and 5 replacement poles to continue to provided service to existing homes. Old poles will be cut and removed. Commissioners would like to see a written response to Mark Stinson's comments. A site visit is planned for 4/21 at 1pm.

The Request for Determination of Applicability for Tardis, LLC, 45 Interlaken Rd. (Map 205, lot 5) was continued pending a representative to present the project. The proposal is for tree planting and invasives removal. (Whalen Nurseries)

Bob Fournier (SK) presented the Notice of Intent for Samuel & Rachel Childers, 14 South Main. (Map 227, lot 34) The plan is to convert their barn to an accessory living space. There will be no change to the footprint. A site visit is planned for 4/21 where Commissioners will review the project and assess unpermitted clearing that may have taken place.

Bob Fournier also presented the Request for Determination of Applicability for Nina Aronoff, 19 Yale Hill. (Map 218, lot 27) The plan is to replace a failed septic. (SK) A site visit is planned for 4/21.

Jay Rhind presented the Request for Determination of Applicability for the Mahkeenac Boating Club. The plan is to repair the foundation holding up the upper and lower decks of the building. No work will be done in the water. A site visit is planned for 4/21.

Tom Lewis presented the Request for Determination of Applicability for TEC Associates (Housatonic RR). The project is for the ROW maintenance. A site visit will be set up for the Commission to review wetland delineations for the chemical treatment of the track. Commissioners again asked what has/will become of the discarded ties stored on their ROW. Some of these contain creosote.

Jamie Minacci made a motion to adjourn at 9pm. John Hart seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Underwood-Miller, Secretary/Member