

Great Barrington Conservation Commission Meeting via Zoom and in Person
at 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Call to Order: Mankin opened the meeting at 6:30pm. Those present: Tom Ferris, Michael Lanoue, Andrew Mankin, David Shanahan. Absent: Kate Van Olst, Andy Didio
Also present: Conservation Agent, Shep Evans

1. Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting.

Lanoue made a motion to approve the September 27, 2023 minutes; **Ferris seconded**. Mankin asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Notice of Intent (DEP File # 167-0455) from Solitude Lake Management on behalf of URJ Eisner Camp for an Aquatic and Mechanical Management Program for Camp Eisner Pond to control Invasive Aquatic Vegetation The Applicant has advised that this NOI will be re-submitted by another firm.

Evans stated the NOI was withdrawn and another firm will take over/follow up.

3 Notice of Intent (SMA File # 08-04-2023) from White Engineering on behalf of Steven Yang & Kathy H. Lee. The property is at 15 & 17 East Mountain Road. The proposed work consists of clearing and constructing a new driveway to a new house site and well. Continued from August 23, 2023 and Site Visits conducted September 21, 2023 and October 24, 2023.

Lanoue made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent subject to there being no cut or prune or vista pruning outside the limit of clearing without prior written approval and subject to prior approval in writing of a proposed house color; **Ferris seconded**. Mankin asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Request for Determination of Applicability from John Field Tree Service on behalf of Risa Hess for removal of one dead Hemlock tree and trimming lateral branches of various other trees in the buffer zone of Lake Mansfield at #3 Lake Mansfield Lane. The Hemlock will be “flush cut” with stump and roots left in-place.

Lanoue made a motion to issue a negative determination #3 with conditions; **Ferris seconded**. Mankin asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Request for Determination of Applicability from Tighe & Bond, Inc. on behalf of the Great Barrington Fire District , property at 95 Hurlburt Road. The proposed work includes installation of a new generator on a new concrete pad and associated site work next to the existing pump station building.

Lanoue made a motion to issue a negative determination #3 with conditions; **Ferris seconded**. Mankin asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Request for Determination of Applicability from Benesch engineering on behalf of the Mass DOT Highway Division for reconstruction of pedestrian curb ramps to meet ADA standards at the Route 7 crossing over Thomas and Palmer Brook.

Evans stated this project is to add an ADA compliant ramp over the Thomas & Palmer Brook. He noted the work is within the guardrail and in the right of way and work will be done from the roadway.

Lanoue made a motion to issue a negative determination #3 with conditions; **Ferris seconded**. Mankin asked if any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Request for Determination of Applicability from Mary Feuer on behalf of Community Health Programs (CHP), Property at 442 Stockbridge Road. The proposed work consists of constructing a 12' X 40' Old Hickory Built Shed on slab with electricity to be used as a food storage building within the outer 50 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Evans presented a map and described the BVW at the entrance of the property, the existing food program building elevated above – and the proposed shed to be built in an open grassy area to be used for food storage. The Commissioners discussed the need to add erosion controls.

Lanoue made a motion to issue a negative determination #3 with the condition that a barrier for erosion control be added between the vegetative fence line to the west and the proposed building site; **Ferris seconded**. Mankin asked if any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Request for Certificate of Compliance from Foresight Land Services on behalf of the Town of Great Barrington and the Great Barrington Land Conservancy, the properties are the Northern and Southern Segments of the Riverside Trail. The Middle Segment, through the Great Barrington Fairground, has not yet been constructed.

Ferris asked if he should recuse on this matter – it was discussed and decided recusal was unnecessary.

Evans stated the work to control invasives in the two sections that were permitted has been completed.

Lanoue made a **motion** to issue the Certificate of Compliance for the northern and southern segments of the Riverside Trail; **Shanahan seconded**. Mankin asked if any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discussion with Pedro Pachano of the GB Planning Board about updating the GB Master Plan.

Pachano asked that the matter be moved to the November agenda.

10. Discussion of Allowing Conservation Commission Member Electronic Signatures on DEP Wetland Permits

Evans stated the State DEP allows for electronic signatures of Conservation Commissioners to be used on routine Commission Determinations, Orders, etc. Evans noted he would sign as Agent and as confirmation of the Commissioners approved, which is always reflected in the minutes. The Commissioners agreed to adopt the process.

11. Discussion with Jess Toro on next round of CPA applications – Step 1 deadline November 3rd at 4:00PM

Toro presented the CPA application for McAllister Park for FY25 and the Commissioners expressed their support for submitting the application as presented.

12. Miscellaneous administrative matters

a. Regarding the 322 Long Pond Road Scenic Mountains Act filing which was approved at the previous meeting – the Commissioners discussed their site visit and agreed on the tree branches to be removed.

13. Citizens Speak Time – No citizens asked to speak.

14. Adjournment - **Lanoue made a motion** to adjourn; **Ferris seconded**. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk