

GREAT BARRINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday October 26, 2022

Call to Order: Chairwoman Van Olst opened the meeting at 6:40pm. Those present via Zoom: Andy Didio, “aye,” Tom Ferris, “aye,” Andrew Mankin, “aye,” Kate Van Olst, “aye.”

Absent: Michael Lanoue, David Shanahan

Also present: Conservation Agent, Shep Evans

Public Meetings:

- 1) The Commission is holding this public meeting to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability from Conor Clark on behalf of Andrew and Margaret Morse, property located at 1 Butternut Lane.

Continued from September 28, 2022.

- a. Evans confirmed a sketch/plant list had been submitted and he had visited the site. He noted the hillside was cleared, but expressed concern about the very steep slope and erosion at the site. Mankin suggested a plan be submitted to stabilize/minimize erosion as the topography is too steep for what has been proposed. Evans clarified the owners have a landscape contractor, but need more expertise on soil stability – and from a regulatory perspective, it would be appropriate to require an NOI which requires a fully engineered solution. Mankin stated if they have an acceptable engineered plan and planting plan an NOI would not be required. The Commissioners instructed the Agent to contact the property owners to inform them that management of the slope needs attention and the Commissioners request a plan rather than require an NOI at this time.

Mankin made a motion to continue the public hearing to the November meeting for 1 Butternut Lane;

Ferris seconded. Van Olst asked if any additional discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: Didio, “aye,” Ferris, “aye,” Mankin, “aye,” Van Olst, “aye.” All in favor: 4-0.

- 2) The Commission will review and discuss with DCR Chief Ecologist, Nancy Putnam, the Annual Report of 2021 Invasive Plant Management and the 2022/2023 Invasive Work Plan for DCR State Parks & State Forests in Great Barrington as per Order of Conditions DEP File # 167-0419.

Nancy Putnam and Jess Applin presented an update and going forward plan for invasive plant management in several Great Barrington state parks/forests - Beartown, Alcott Road Trail, Fountain Pond and East Mountain – where there has been significant work that has successfully cleared/treated invasive plants. Priorities for next year include maintenance to prevent invasive regrowth and exploring new areas for investigation, prevention, treatment and clearing. The Commissioners inquired about the extent and challenges of these efforts - and were very pleased with the substantive progress and impact as well as plans for continued work.

Citizen Speak Time / Commission Speak Time – Evans thanked Putnam for her leadership in managing and overseeing this important work in Berkshire County

Next meeting date – The Commissioners agreed on November 30 for the next meeting and at that time to decide if a December meeting is necessary.

ADJOURN – Chairwoman Van Olst adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk