

Great Barrington Conservation Commission Meeting via Zoom
and in person at 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA
Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Call to Order: Chairwoman Van Olst opened the meeting at 6:35pm. Those present: Andy Didio, Michael Lanoue, Andrew Mankin, David Shanahan, Kate Van Olst. Absent: Tom Ferris. Also present: Conservation Agent, Shep Evans

1. **Approval of Minutes** of the July 26, 2023 meeting.

Mankin made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023 minutes; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst 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 and/or Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation through USEPA/MA registered Mechanical techniques or hand pulling. Continued at the Applicant's request from July 26, 2023.

Evans stated Solitude has asked for the matter to be continued to the next meeting.

Mankin made a motion to continue to the next meeting on September 27 at 6:30pm; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

3 **Wetland Resource Area Assessment & Restoration Plan** from Stockman Associates on behalf of Cindy Granahan, property at #6 Ramsey Avenue. The proposed work is a restoration of an altered BVW including removal of a gravel pile, removal of historic junk piles and concrete walkway, replacement and regrading of hydric soils and installation of a split rail fence.

Emily Stockman presented the wetland restoration plan prepared in response to a cease and desist order. **Mankin made a motion** to approve the restoration plan as presented; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Notice of Intent (DEP File # 167- 0459)** from Foresight Land Services on behalf of Shai Walker, property on the east side of Alford Road south of the Castle Hill Avenue intersection. The proposed work consists of constructing a new driveway crossing a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and related site work.

Bryan Siter, Foresight Land Services, presented the plan for a new driveway crossing over a BVW and a related wetland replication area. Mankin asked for a planting plan to replace trees 1:1 for those being removed in the buffer zone including specific location and species of trees. A site visit was scheduled for the afternoon of September 21 and it was agreed that the trees to be taken down would be marked and wetland replication area staked out on site.

Mankin made a motion to continue the public hearing to September 27 at 6:30pm; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

5. **Notice of Intent (DEP File # 167-0457)** from Foresight Land Services on behalf of the Town of Great Barrington. The property is located at #60 Bridge Street. The proposed work is the renovation of Memorial Field, a municipal recreational baseball field, and related site work.

Siter presented plans for adding ADA access walkways/ramp, grading to improve drainage and resurfacing the field - and noted some of the work falls within the 200-foot riverfront area and 100 year floodplain – but the work would improve the area significantly.

Mankin made a motion to close the public hearing; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

Mankin made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent as presented; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Notice of Intent (DEP File # 167-0458)** from Foresight Land Services on behalf of the Town of Great Barrington. The property is the Claire Teague Senior Center at 917 South Main Street. The proposed project includes enlarged and improved parking area and related site work.

Siter presented plans to resurface the parking lot and improve drainage with work in the riverfront area. It was confirmed that stockpiled materials would be trucked away.

Mankin made a motion to close the public hearing; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

Mankin made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent as presented; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

7. **Notice of Intent (SMA File # 8-09-2023)** from S-K Design Group on behalf of Debra and Abram Klein. The property is at 322 Long Pond Road. The project is construction of an accessory structure on an existing developed lot with a house, driveway, septic system and other amenities.

Matt Puntin, S-K Design Group, presented plans for a new structure, site work and tree removal. He stated the removal of six trees is being proposed – and it was discussed that one tree should potentially stay or be pruned. It was agreed that trees could be planted to offset. It was noted the original house siting was a significant project and done well – and that should be preserved, including the ridge line. There was discussion about the new building footprint/height and it was confirmed as lower than the existing house. A site visit was scheduled for August 31 at 4:15pm and it was confirmed that the trees in question should be flagged.

Mankin made a motion to continue the public hearing to September 27 at 6:30pm; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

8. **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.

Shannon Boomsma, White Engineering, presented the plan for clearing the site, installing a driveway and a well which involves clearing 1.7 acres. A site visit was scheduled for September 21 at 5:00pm and it was agreed that the proposed limit of house site clearing would be flagged and there would be rough flagging of the house.

Mankin made a motion to continue the public hearing to September 27 at 6:30pm; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

9. **Continuation of a Public Hearing** from July 26, 2023 to consider current and possible new filing fees for new permits, amendments to existing permits, inspections, certifications, and miscellaneous research. Evans presented a proposal to increase RDA filing fees to \$120 which is the cost of placing public notices and to charge a \$50 fee for amendments or extensions of Orders of Conditions as they require additional work, time and expense. He also proposed policies to document and clarify applicant responsibilities/requirements around Orders of Conditions and Certificates of Compliance. **Mankin made a motion** to approve the new filing fees and policies regarding Orders of Conditions, amended or extended Orders of Conditions, and Certificates of Compliance as presented; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

10. **Request for an extension of a Negative Determination** issued to John & Andrew Viola on 10-19-2020 for vegetation management on a lot on Christian Hill Road.

Evans stated in 2020 the Commission issued a negative determination for vegetation management and maintenance on the lot so a house could be built, but it was not cleared nor was the house built. He stated the owners are asking for an extension to the determination which expires in October so the lot can be sold – and he noted it can be extended for three years since it for vegetation management.

Mankin made a motion to approve the extension of the negative determination for the lot on Christian Hill Road; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

11. **Citizens Speak** – No citizens asked to speak

Van Olst stated her term is up as Conservation Commission representative to the CPC and she would like to be reappointed.

Mankin made a motion to reappoint Kate Van Olst as representative to the CPC; **Lanoue seconded**. Van Olst asked for any discussion – there was none. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously.

12. **Adjournment** - **Mankin made a motion** to adjourn; **Lanoue seconded**. By roll call vote the motion was approved unanimously at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk