

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018  
6:30 P.M. – TOWN HALL  
334 MAIN STREET**

**Members Present:** ANDREW MANKIN; LISA BOZZUTO; BILL BOYER; KATE VAN OLST; JEFF COHEN; DAVID SHANAHAN; AGENT, SHEP EVANS.

**McAllister Wildlife Refuge** Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restoration, LLC and the Commission will review and finalize proposed McAllister projects for the next round of CPA funding. Phase 1 includes wet meadow restoration without the use of herbicides, the land will be restored to meadow in the initial year with a forestry mower. Initial budget accounts for the first years restoration practices. Phase 2, includes, a forest restoration project area that will be brush mowed with a forestry mower (2-3 acres) the invasive shrubs will be treated with herbicide by "light" foliar spray and the other 2-3 acres, the invasive shrubs will be hand dug and cut by Greenagers' crews. The Conservation Commission seeks future CPA funding to have Greenagers preserve trails and establish proper signage for McAllister Wildlife Refuge. The Commission will request for \$5000 in CPA funding. The final project is a phased pollinator habitat project. First phase will prepare the ground to be seeded the following year. **Bill Boyer motioned, Andrew Mankin seconded; to authorize Jess Toro to apply for the CPA funding on the behalf of the Conservation Commission as presented. Unanimous approval.**

**WPA Notice of Intent 167-0423** from White Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Benjamin Wohlfert. Property at 121 Bridge Street, Great Barrington. The proposed project includes demolition of an existing single family residence partly in the 100 year flood plain and construction of a new and larger residence with access ramps in same general location. **Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded to approve the plans as presented with the conditions that the trees taken down be replaced with native trees, that the 2 burning bush shrubs be replaced with floodplain tolerant shrubs, and that the flood vents be maintained operational in perpetuity. Unanimous approval.**

**Ratification of an Enforcement Order** issued 9-10-2018 to "81 Division Street LLC" and Jonathan & Ronnie Halpern for substantial alteration of Riverfront, River Bank, Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat adjacent to the Williams River at 81 Division Street, Map 28 Lot 15. **Lisa Bozzuto motioned, Bill Boyer seconded to ratify and sign the enforcement order. Unanimous approval.**

**Receipt of a proposed restoration plan** (required by the Enforcement Order of 9-10-2018) from Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering, Inc. on behalf of 81 Division Street LLC and Jonathan & Ronnie Halpern. **Discussion will continue October 24, 2018 meeting.**

**Request for issuance of Certificate of Compliance** – From Alana Chain of Altus Power for the Rising Paper PV Solar project, Mass DEP File # 167-0385. **Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded the approval and signing of the Certificate of Compliance. Unanimous approval.**

**WPA RDA** from Matthew L. Dodds concerning site preparation, including excavation, grading and driveway improvement, for a single family residence on Quarry Street, Map 20 Lot 130B. **Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded, that the applicant have the area within 100ft of the neighboring small quarry identified and shown on the project plan and continue the public until October 24, 2018. Unanimous approval.**

**Discussion of Restoration Plan and Enforcement Order** of March 4, 2016 pertaining to land of Larkin adjacent to the Green and Housatonic Rivers, Map38 Lot 44. Continued from August 29, 2018. Mr. Larkin will reach out to Mr. Parsons. Mr. Parsons is going to advise Shep Evans of his engagement and his timing to produce a buffer zone plan of the land adjacent to the Green and Housatonic Rivers. **Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded to suspend the collection of any fines until the October 24, 2018 meeting. Unanimous approval.**

**Progress report from Mike Parsons of Kelly Granger Parsons on resolution of ownership** of +/- .3 Acres of land that, per the deed to the Town of Great Barrington (BK-397 PG-477), is part of the McAllister Wildlife Refuge fronting on the Green River.

**Recommendations to the Selectboard** on Special Permit Applications: #882-18 an increase in impervious surface in a Water Quality Protection Overlay District, and #883-18 conversion of a three bedroom house to a four bedroom house **Andrew Mankin motioned, Bill Boyer seconded, to send a letter regarding these Special Permit applications from Shep Evans commenting that these properties are non jurisdictional. Unanimous approval.**

The Old gravel pit property on Route 7 north of the town dump is under Contract of Sale and the town has 120 days of "First Refusal" on the property.

**Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded to advise the Selectboard to investigate the conservation value of the old gravel pit. Unanimous approval.**

**Citizen speak time: None**

**Commission speak time:**

Jeff Cohen

- suggested that the commission consider creating some kind of policy for attendance and publish the attendance annually.
- Requested Shep Evans to create a spreadsheet of projects passed, so the commission can keep up with the progress of approved projects.

- Jeff Cohen is hoping to have educational opportunities for the Conservation Commission. Mark Stinsen will be coming to teach give the commission a lesson before February meeting. Another educational opportunity will be an informal teaching about turtles.
- Jeff Cohen has pursued the possibility of Shep Evans joining the Conservation Commission as a Commissioner. Select board members that have been talked to approve of Shep's integration.
- A new representative for the Lake Mansfield Task Force for the 4th Wednesday meeting at 8 in the morning is needed.

**Approval of Minutes: Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded to approve July and August meeting minutes. Unanimous approval.**

**Adjournment. Andrew Mankin motioned, Lisa Bozzuto seconded, to adjourn meeting. Unanimous approval.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Wiltshire

Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Wiltshire", written over the printed name and title.