

Erving Conservation Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/5/2023

Location: Erving Public Library, 2 Care Drive

Time: 6:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Carie Berg, David Brule, Mark Blatchley, Michelle Turner

Attendees: Bryan Smith, Debbie Wing, Billie Li, Julian Mendoza

Meeting Called to Order: 6:16 PM

Minutes

Public Meeting opened: – MassDOT RDA; Billie Li presenting

Looking for a negative determination for RT 2 resurfacing project within Erving.

Start: MM 60.327

End: MM 63.825

Project to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Milling/paving
- Adjust/rebuild drainage structure at bridge E-10-012.
- Construct pedestrian curb ramps at side streets, where required.
- Reconstruct damaged guardrails and/or HMA curb.
- Other minor improvements.

MOTION to find a negative determination (Box 2) for the RDA filed by MassDOT for the Route 2 paving/resurfacing project.

| By: David; 2nd: Michelle; Vote: Unanimous |

MOTION to close the Public Meeting.

| By: David; 2nd: Michelle; Vote: Unanimous |

Agenda Item 6: 72 Mountain Road; Collapsed Retaining Wall

Resident's retaining wall collapsed and fell towards a gulley which includes a drainage/runoff area. Questioning whether the drainage/runoff is considered a wetland and what the next steps would be for them to begin repairs. Prior residents do not appear to have secured permits for the retaining wall, and it seems poorly constructed.

Their main focus is on saving their deck, which is supported by the area contained by the retaining wall.

They've spoken to contractors. One requested something in writing stating "not wetland". One company they contacted quoted them roughly \$18,000 just to come look.

Mark felt that they would just need a silt barrier (hay tube barrier) in place during construction and after to prevent accidental runoff into the wetland. It was recommended that they file an RDA with a sketch of the plans for construction/repair. A site visit would also be needed.

Scheduling the RDA review for the August 1st ConComm meeting. Payment for the advertisement would be required from the property owner.

Mark suggested that they ask the contractor if just footings could be done to support and reinforce the deck.

Agenda Item 3: Reorganization & Review Open Meeting Law

Discussed and decided that the minutes will be signed by Mark after approval. The signed copy would then be forwarded to Dick for filing.

Agenda Item 4: Review June Meeting Minutes

MOTION to accept the June meeting minutes as presented.

[M: Carie; 2nd: David; Vote: Unanimous]

Agenda Item 5: Poplar Mountain Conservation Area

The surveyor is a bit behind schedule.

Asphalt grindings mentioned in the June meeting were deemed not a good idea by Glenn.

A vision of a future picnic area with tables and such would need a plan before proposing.

There are stumps left over from the parking lot clearing. Would like them removed. There are also two logs that we wanted to use to line the parking lot that are buried in the log pile. Would like them moved from the pile to the outer edge in place of the smaller ones. The hope is that they are more visible to visitors while parking their vehicle.

Would it be possible to hard pack the area around the handicap spot to make it more accessible for wheelchairs/assistive devices?

Bryan shared that MassDOT approved our request for the brown & white signs at each end of Old State Road for the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area. We will also have blue directional signs pointing to the area.

Agenda Item 7 – 153 North Street

There has been no prior site visit done. A stop order letter was sent to him back in April so assessments could be made. He felt he was being harassed which gave him headaches.

David and Mark would like to schedule a site visit to reassure the resident that the meeting request was to serve as a gentle reminder that we would need to evaluate the work so we can give suggestions on how to perform the work safely, preserving the stream at his location and downstream.

Recommendations and a timeline would be determined after the site visit.

Agenda Item 8 – 5 Flagg Hill Road

Based on a site visit, it was noted that the wetland in question was very small, measuring about the size of our meeting table. It is beginning to grow in, but it is there and will be boggy. It seems to be shrinking with time, but naturally. The resident is not at fault. A siltation barrier was in place.

Agenda Item 9 – Old State Road Erosion Update

Problem with the contractor.

Agenda Item 10 – Articles for Erving Around Town

Carie is writing an article about ticks for the September issue.

Agenda Item 11 – Unanticipated Topics

A. Wheelock Street to begin soon. We can go make sure siltation controls are in place prior.

B. Mr. Nevelle is no longer upset. A tree was cut, but it was not on his property as he had thought.

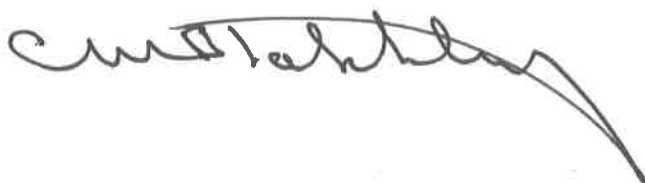
C. Training on the 15th. Might be beneficial to attend. (Vegetative determinations, etc.)

D. 25 Old State Road – The Rock property has officially been acquired by the climbers. It's approximately 20 acres by the Black's property. This will allow for additional parking and the possibility of a helicopter landing spot for emergencies to take the pressure off Route 2 when rescue is necessary. There would need to be staging equipment in place prior.

Could entertain conservation of Farley Ledges to permanently protect it. First Light interested.

MOTION to adjourn.

| By: Michelle; 2nd: David; Vote: Unanimous |

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C. Nevelle', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.