

## Town House

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# TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS



## Conservation Commission

Judy McKinley Brewer, Chair  
Ted Zebert, Co-Chair  
Andrew Netherwood  
John Cushman  
Thom Page  
Cindi Connors, Assoc. Member

### HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes March 17, 2021 Town House

Approved: April 21, 2021

Meeting called to order: 03/17/2021 @ 7:00pm

Members Present: Judy McKinley-Brewer Chair, Ted Zebert, Andrew Netherwood, Thom Page and Cindi Connors

Members Absent: John Cushman

Invited Guests: Steve Riberdy, GZA Biologist

Also Present: Bonnie Geromini, Susanna & Stephan Haskins, Randall Rivest, Greg D'Agostino

**Public Comment:** None prior to start of meeting

#### **Agenda Items:**

**Minutes:** *Judy made a motion to accept the minutes of November 4, 2020 and November 18, 2020 with two corrections, Ted seconded, all in favor 4-0.*

#### **7:00pm Public Hearing, 61 Rock A Dundee Road Rockwell Project:**

Steve Riberdy appeared on behalf of the Rockwell family. They would like to amend the Notice of Intent, (NOI) to make dam repairs on the drawn down condition and avoid re-impact on the pond. They are nearing the end of the project and almost all of the sediment has been relocated. They are in contact/talks with the respective agencies in regard to the dam repair with minor amendments to current permits. They are proposing to erect a coffer dam near the current dam, remove two trees on downstream from the dam, replace the gate (rusted) structure, and repair concrete and rebar all within the same footprint of the current project. There will be no additional impacts. This will extend the drawdown by approximately four weeks with a 50 to 100 year life expectancy of the repairs. The Army Corps of Engineers will be issuing an approval letter that GZA will provide to the Commission and the Turtle Protection Plan, (TPP), will be updated and sent to Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, (NHESP). This will consist of a silt fence along both sides of the access road to prevent the turtles from crossing and there will be a turtle gate at the mouth of the road that the contractors will have to open and close. Andrew questioned what will happen to the access road at the end of the project? Steve provided that it was already a dirt road and the gravel and stone will be removed. Susanna Haskins asked if the sediment that has built up will 'go' away and was told that it will wash away with storm. Stephan Haskins commented that there has been a lot of truck traffic for six-eight weeks. Ted questioned if the concrete work will be delivered by truck or hand mixed and Steve replied that NHESP will inform them. The Commission reviewed the request in two parts, the first being if the purpose was changed, all agreed it was not, it continued to meet the relevant performance standards, and the scope of work had not changed, and all agreed it had not, there was no increased potential for adverse impact on wildlife habitats. Based on this, *Andrew made a motion to approve the minor change to DEP project 173-223, Thom seconded, all in favor 4-0.* Steve Riberdy provided the abutter notification cards and the Commission reminded him that they will not be able to start the new work for 10 days in case there are public response/disagreements.

**Mark Kibbe 229 Somers Road:** Mark currently operates a sawmill and firewood operation at 229 Somers Road. He would like to run electricity from the street to kilns that he would also like to install on the property. The electric company has requested that a letter/permit be issued from the Conservation Commission. The property includes a right of way granted to the Minnechaug Land Trust to a small parcel of land surrounded by Kibbe property. The commission reviewed the property and the 200ft riverfront area, the Commission advised that the poles need to be kept out of that area. Mark needs to provide the Commission with a diagram of the proposed pole placement from the utility company. A site inspection will be necessary, and the Commission agreed upon March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Mark will also need to submit a Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA) with a map.

**S. Gore, 95 Martin Farms:** A cease and desist letter was sent to the homeowner and he has picked it up. The equipment has been removed from the property.

**General Discussion:**

Both Greg D'Agostino and Randall Rivest attended the meeting. *Andrew made a motion to appoint both as Associate Members, Thom seconded. All in favor 4-0. Both members were advised that they need to contact Eva, the town clerk, to be sworn in.*

**Jeff Adams 10 South Road:** Jeff has submitted an RDA for several areas of his property. A site walk has been scheduled for 6pm prior to the Commission's next meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm, Thom seconded, all in favor 4-0*

/clc