

Town of Sterling
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

1 Park Street

Sterling, MA 01564

Office: 978-422-8111 ext 2321

Email: bweigel@sterling-ma.gov

Meeting Date: Tuesday June 13th, 2023

Start Time: 7:47pm

Commissioners in Attendance (In-Person): Mike Pineo, Sue Valentine, Matt Marro, Scott Michalak, Steve Pavlowich, Bryanna Weigel (field agent)

Commissioners in Attendance (Remote): Barbara Roberti, Chris O'Neil

Members of the Public in Attendance (In-Person): Please see attached Sign-in sheet.

Members of the Public in Attendance (Remote): Paula Davison, DCR

Meeting Adjourned at 9:11pm

7:48pm – Old Business

- Commissioner Sue Valentine brought up a grant the commission applied for and received two years ago. Sue Valentine said she would like to see the commission begin making efforts to fulfill the grant's mission. Matt Marro mentioned that funds from the grant expire in 2024.
- Commissioner Sue Valentine mentioned doing an inventory of the conservation commission's nature signs.

7:52pm – Application for Certificate of Compliance, 150 Clinton Road

- Commission members in attendance in-person reviewed agent's site visit report, as well as the Operations and Maintenance Plan designed by LandTech Consultants.
- Full Certificate of Compliance was issued at 8:03pm with a unanimous vote.

8:04pm - Application for Certificate of Compliance, 8 Old Princeton Road

- Commissioner Matt Marro discussed the site with all other members in attendance, talking specifically about revegetation levels.
- Full Certificate of Compliance was issued at 8:06pm with a unanimous vote.

8:07pm - Application for Certificate of Compliance, 68 Heywood Road

- Commissioner Matt Marro discussed the site with all other members in attendance, talking specifically about revegetation levels.
- Full Certificate of Compliance was issued at 8:10pm with a unanimous vote.

8:11pm – Agent’s Report, 130 Chace Hill Road, Tree Removal Request

- Agent shared site visit report with commission members in attendance, explaining that the resident would like to remove 4 trees in total.
- Commissioners Scott Michalak and Mike Pineo asked if the resident is planning to remove stumps or leave them. Both members expressed approving the request if stumps remained in the ground.
- Commissioners Scott Michalak, Mike Pineo, and Sue Valentine requested that the resident plant native shrubs when removing trees, such as High-bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), Gray Alder (*Alnus incana*), or Southern Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*).
- Commissioners Scott Michalak, Mike Pineo, and Sue Valentine requested that Japanese Knotwood be removed when trees are being removed.
- Unanimous vote at 8:15pm to ratify the resident’s request with conditions to remove 3 of 4 trees without an Request for Determination of Applicability.

8:16pm – Agent’s Report, 91 Lake Shore Drive, Rock Removal Request

- Agent shared site visit report with commission members in attendance, explaining that the resident would like to remove 2 rocks in total using a chain or rope to pull them out of the lake.
- Commissioners Scott Michalak, Mike Pineo, Steve Pavlowich, and Sue Valentine questioned why the resident wanted to remove the rocks and the agent reported that the resident cited issues with geese.
- Commissioners Scott Michalak, Mike Pineo, Steve Pavlowich, and Sue Valentine ratified the resident’s request at 8:21pm coming to the conclusion that the resident must file a Notice of Intent in order to receive a permit.

8:23pm – Request for Determination of Applicability, 249 Redeption Rock Road

- Commissioner Sue Valentine questioned if there was a way DCR could save the house instead of demolishing it. Paula Davison from DCR explained asbestos was found in the home. Paula Davison mentioned that the site will become turtle nesting habitat and that there are plans for stream restoration.

- Commissioners talked about adding a condition that requires stream restoration to take place on the property within 10 years.
- At 8:37pm a motion was made by commissioner Mike Pineo to make a negative determination with a condition that DCR restore stream habitat in a 10 year period. Unanimous vote for a negative determination.

8:38pm - Request for Determination of Applicability, 71 Nelson Road

- Paula Davison, DCR, explained that asbestos was found on this property, as well as suspected PCP caulking around windows.
- Commissioners voted unanimous for a negative determination at 8:43pm.

8:44pm – Request for Determination of Applicability, 197 Beaman Road

- Engineer Larry Greene approached the commission with site plans explaining plans to replace and relocate a new septic system further from resource areas on the property.
- Commissioners voted unanimous for a negative determination at 8:47pm.

8:50pm – Executive Session Entered

9:07pm – Executive Session Closed

Meeting Adjourned at 9:11pm

STERLING CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1 PARK STREET — BUTTERICK MUNICIPAL BUILDING

STERLING, MA 01564

TELEPHONE: 978-422-8111 EXT 2321

BWEIGEL@STERLING-MA.GOV

SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME, TITLE, AND AGENDA ITEM

Matthew Stangle, Engineer, Landtech - COX - 150 Clinton Rd
LAK CREEK - MCCARTY ENCL.