

Sterling Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 18th, 2023

Approved: 9/12/2023

Members Present In-Person: Barbara Roberti (Chair), Matt Marro, Scott Michalak

Members present Virtual: Sue Valentine, Steve Pavlowich

Conservation Agent: Bryanna Weigel

Members of the Public Present In-Person: See attached sign-in sheet

Members of the Public Present Virtual: None

Meeting Start Time: 7:36 PM

Time: 7:37 PM Conservation Restriction on 59 Osgood Road

Mark Kerrigan came before the commission to propose that 44 acres of land, 25 of which are forested and 19 of which are in agricultural use, at address 59 Osgood Road enter a conservation restriction with the Sterling Conservation Commission. There was discussion regarding a special condition that the 19 acres of land currently in agricultural use would remain in agricultural use in perpetuity under the conservation restriction. A motion was made by commissioner Matt Marro, seconded by commissioner Scott Michalak, at 7:52 PM to sign a contract documenting that the commission is in favor of this agreement. Unanimous vote.

Time: 7:53 PM Notice of Intent for a Septic System Repair: 12 James Road DEP #295-0556

Applicant Michael Lashua came before the commission regarding notice of intent filed for a septic system repair at 12 James Road. Commissioners present in-person and virtually reviewed the engineered plans provided. Proposed erosion controls were discussed. All proposed work to replace the current septic system is located within existing lawn area. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak, seconded by commissioner Matt Marro, at 7:59 PM to grant a permit for this notice of intent with proposed erosion controls without any special conditions. Unanimous vote.

Time: 8:00 PM Special Request: New Well Installation, 172 Newell Hill Road, DEP #295-0554

Tom Clancy came before the commission regarding the installation of a new well. Commissioners present in-person and virtually reviewed engineered plans showing the location of the existing well and the proposed location of a new well. Erosion control methods were discussed. Chairwoman Barbara Roberti proposed a silt fence be installed as an additional erosion control due to the close proximity of work to the resource area. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak, seconded by commissioner Matt Marro, at 8:09 PM to approve this special request with the condition that a silt fence be installed circumventing the limit of work to protect the resource area. Unanimous vote. Ratified through the Agent's Determination form.

Time: 8:11 PM Agents Report: Sterling Conservation Commission Property, orchard on Swett Hill Road – Bird Boxes

Agent Bryanna Weigel updated the commission on 6 bluebird boxes that were donated to the commission by MassWildlife earlier in July. The boxes will be installed in the orchard in the winter.

Time: 8:15 PM Agents Report: CSX YOP for ROW Vegetation Management

Agent Bryanna Weigel updated the commission that a yearly operation plan for vegetation management in Sterling on railroad right-of-way's was submitted by VHB consulting firm.

Time: 8:16 PM Chapter 61a, Notice of Intent to Sell For Other Use, 108 Maple Street, Anthony and Diane Melone

The commission entered a discussion on Chapter 61a Notice of Intent to Sell For Other Use regarding land for sale at address 108 Maple Street. This property is currently an apple orchard. The commission reviewed paperwork submitted to the commission that showed the location of the land for sale. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak, seconded by commissioner Matt Marro, at 8:23 PM to release the parcel from the Chapter 61a as the commission decided not to place a bid for the parcel. Unanimous vote.

Time: 8:24 PM Meeting Minutes from June Meeting

The commission reviewed the June meeting minutes. A motion was made by commissioner Scott Michalak, seconded by commissioner Matt Marro, at 8:30 PM to approve June meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM

STERLING CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME, TITLE, AND AGENDA ITEM

MICHAEL LASHUA - 12 JAMES RD

MARK KERRIGAN - UAGAIWI FAMILY LIMITED
PARTNERSHIP, OSGOOD RD.

TOM CLARKY - 172 NEWELL HILL RD