

Sterling Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes
September 12th, 2023
Approved: November 28th, 2023

Members Present In-Person: Barbara Roberti (Chair), Scott Michalak, Steve Pavlowich, Mike Pineo

Members Present Virtual: Sue Valentine

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: 7:49 PM

7:50 PM. Minutes from the previous meeting:

Commissioner Steve Pavlowich made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by commissioner Scott Michalak. Unanimous vote.

7:51 PM Chapter 61a, Notice of Intent to Sell For Other Use, 184 Justice Hill Road Cutoff, Estate of Lorian E. Blanchard:

Commissioners reviewed the pamphlet provided that included a map of the parcel and the price of the lot. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak at 7:58 PM to release the parcel 184 Justice Hill Road Cutoff, seconded by commissioner Sue Valentine. Unanimous vote.

7:59 PM Chapter 61a, Notice of Intent to Sell For Other Use, Lot 9 Justice Hill Road, Justice Hill, Inc.:

Commissioners reviewed the pamphlet provided that included a map of the parcel and the price of the lot. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak at 8:00 PM to release the parcel Lot 9 Justice Hill Road, seconded by commissioner Mike Pineo. Unanimous vote.

8:01 PM Chapter 61a, Notice of Intent to Sell For Other Use, Lot 10 Justice Hill Road, Justice Hill, Inc.:

Commissioners reviewed the pamphlet provided that included a map of the parcel and the price of the lot. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak at 8:03 PM to release the parcel Lot 10 Justice Hill Road, seconded by commissioner Sue Valentine. Unanimous vote.

8:04 PM Chapter 61a, Notice of Intent to Lease For Other Use, 56 Kendall Hill Road (Portion of), Sally Beckwith:

Commissioners reviewed pamphlet provided that included a map of the parcel and the price of the lot. Commissioners Scott Michalak and Mike Pineo mentioned that there is an apple orchard on this parcel. Commissioners discussed whether or not they were interested in this parcel because there are wetlands mapped on the parcel. Commissioners discussed that there is only an intent to lease a portion of the parcel and not an intent to sell. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak at 8:15 PM to release the parcel 56 Kendall Hill Road (Portion of), seconded by commissioner Mike Pineo. Unanimous vote.

8:16 PM Site Visit: 86 Maple Street, Tree cutting and vegetation removal:

Conservation Agent Bryanna passed out the site visit summary form for commissioners to review and explained that the property owner, Gary Lamb, would like to cut two expired trees located in the buffer zone and that the property owner would also like to remove vegetation overtaking the fence in his backyard. The agent explained that this vegetation is located in the resource area. The commissioners deemed it appropriate for the property owner to remove the expired trees but leave the stumps. The commission decided to allow the property owner to

remove vegetation within the resource area, extending three feet from the fence, as a maintenance activity. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak at 8:21 PM to allow tree and vegetation removal with the conditions specified, seconded by commissioner Mike Pineo.

8:22 PM Onyx, 17 Stone Crest Way, Buffer Zone Work and Stormwater Permit:

Conservation Agent Bryanna explained to the commission that she met with Onyx's engineer Richard Harrington on 9/6/2023 and toured the Onyx site. She explained to the commission that she recommends that Onyx should file a Notice of Intent with the conservation commission for grading within the buffer zone of an intermittent stream and that this Notice of Intent would include the stormwater permit for the 5 to 6 acres of pavement that is planned to be installed. Board of Selectman Selectwoman Kristin Newman came forward and asked what the conservation commission is requiring of Onyx, to which conservation agent Bryanna replied a Notice of Intent is required due to the work planned in the buffer zone of jurisdictional resource areas and a stormwater permit would be required under the Sterling Stormwater Bylaw; however, both of these applications can be combined and the applicant, Onyx, would only need to file a Notice of Intent but the conditions associated with the permit would address both buffer zone work and stormwater permit conditions. Resident Brian Cline came forward to express his approval of Onyx continuing business in Sterling. Brian Cline also mentioned that the Sterling Open Space Committee is requesting Onyx grant public access to walking trails on Onyx's property. Unanimous vote.

8:57 PM Certificate of Compliance – A1/B2 Transmission Line RPW, New England Power Company, MADEP # 295-0547:

Commissioners reviewed the Request for Certificate of Compliance form submitted by BSC Group on behalf of New England Power Company for work done on the A1/B2 transmission line. Motion made by commissioner Scott Michalak at 9:02 PM to grant a full certificate of compliance, seconded by commissioner Mike Pineo. Unanimous vote.

9:03 PM Monthly meeting time change:

Conservation Agent Bryanna asked the commissioners if they are available at the time of 6:30 PM on conservation commission meeting days instead of 7:30 PM to start meetings earlier. Commissioner Sue Valentine asked to change the day of the meetings from Tuesday to Thursday, to which commissioners Scott Michalak, Mike Pineo, Steve Pavlowich, and chairwoman Barbara Roberti said they could not support that day change. A motion was made by commissioner Mike Pineo at 9:08 PM to vote to change conservation commission meeting start times to 6:30PM, seconded by commissioner Scott Michalak. Commissioners Barbara Roberti (chairwoman), Scott Michalak, Steve Pavlowich, and Mike Pineo were in favor. Commissioner Sue Valentine was not in favor.

9:09 PM MassTrails Grant Update:

Conservation Agent Bryanna explained she has spoken with the Sterling DPW Director Ryan Mouradian about DPW's involvement in the grant. DPW would like two months notice before any work they committed to do needs to be done, so that they can schedule the work in time. The agent also reported that she has contacted several poison ivy removal companies that service Sterling and that any poison ivy removal would have to take place in May 2024. The agent also reported that the nature signs company used in previous projects is still able to manufacture signs for the commission as long as the commission knows the content of the signs they want made.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM

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

Kirsten Newman BOS
BRIAN CLINE, RESIDENT