

Minutes
Lee Conservation Commission
Lee Town Hall 32 Main Street Meeting Room
Wednesday May 3, 2023

Members of the Commission present: Kathy Arment, Chair; John Philpott; John Coty, Jr.; Marilyn Hansen, Toni Thomas; Clare Lahey, alternate
Members of the Commissioners Absent: Mark Navin; Stu Dalheim

Members of the Public Present: Mike Kulig, Berkshire Engineering; Steve Mack and Bryan Siter, Foresight Land Services; Colleen DeBenedetto and Garret Colvin, Valta Energy; Don Latino, 140 Cape Street; Kelsey Brunell and James Tyler, 161 East Center Street; Bill and Becky Brunell, R.W, 35 Run Way.

Kathy Hall: Lee Youth Commission Skateboard Park Ms. Hall asked for a continuance to the May 17, 2023 meeting. **Motion by Ms. Arment with a second by Mr. Philpott to continue to the May 17, 2023 meeting.**

VOTE: Ms. Arment, aye Mr. Philpott, aye Mr. Coty, aye
 Ms. Hansen, aye Ms. Thomas, aye

Unanimous approval

Notice of Intent: William and Becky Brunell 35 Run Way Map 30 Lot 69 DEP #196-0484 Installing a metal storage building in a riverfront area Mr. Kulig of Berkshire Engineering presented the plan with Mr. Brunell contributing. It is considered a redevelopment project as the parcel of land is already fully developed. A 54' x 80'p, 4420 SF storage shed will be placed in an already disturbed area. Riverfront restoration and stormwater management improvements are proposed. These will include removal of invasive plant species, planting native, non-invasive shrub species and seed mix, a fabric grass lined swale to receiver runoff from paved areas and a split rail fence or other barrier to limit access and delineate an area to be restored. Existing vegetated areas will remain. The Commission has requested that the revised plan that addresses the DEP comments be submitted to DEP for approval. **Motion by Mr. Philpott with a second by Mr. Coty to approve the Notice of Intent DEP #196-0484 to install a metal storage building in a riverfront area and pending the approval of the revised plan by Mark Stinson of DEP.**

VOTE: Ms. Arment, aye Mr. Philpott, aye Mr. Coty, aye
 Ms. Hansen, aye Ms. Thomas, aye

Unanimous approval

Notice of Intent: VS Cape Smart, Inc. 1435 Cape Street Map 21 Lot 25 Installing a 3.5-acre solar installation Mr. Siter and Mr. Mack presented the plan. The proposed work consists of re-grading the existing gravel pit and installing a 3.5-acre solar installation. The existing 12' wide gravel driveway and bridge will be used to access the site. The connections for the utilities will come off Cape Street and utility poles will be installed in the 50' boundary of a

BVW. There will be an improvement to the stormwater structure; a level spreader will be installed. A retention pond will be placed to help with the runoff. There will be no disturbance to the stream in the back of the property or the beaver pond. There were questions about the stabilization of the bank by the solar panels. Once the installation is done pollinator seed mix will be planted under and around the panels. There will also be rehabilitation done around the road area. Mr. Latino asked questions concerning the run-off and site line.

The Commission requests more information, especially comments from DEP concerning any changes. **Motion made by Ms. Arment with a second by Mr. Coty to continue the hearing to the May 17, 2023 meeting.**

VOTE: Ms. Arment, aye
Ms. Hansen, aye

Mr. Philpott, aye
Ms. Thomas, aye

Mr. Coty, aye

Unanimous approval

161 East Center Street Possible violation Ms. Arment read a copy of a complaint sent to DEP about work that was done at this address. Ms. Kelsey and Mr. Brunell both responded. There were raised gardens in the area when Ms. Kelsey bought the property. Ms. Kelsey had pictures of the area before she had changes made. The beds have been cleaned out, fill and top soil been brought in and grass planted. The Commission had aerial photos sent from DEP showing a lot of the area as wetlands. There was also a short discussion about putting in a privacy fence. The Commission has asked that Ms. Kelsey submit a Notice of Intent for the work done.

Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Motion was made by Ms. Arment with a second by Mr. Philpott to approve the April 19, 2023 minutes.

VOTE: Ms. Arment, aye
Ms. Hansen, aye

Mr. Philpott, aye
Ms. Thomas, aye

Mr. Coty, aye

Review of Housatonic Railroad Yearly Operation Plan/Vegetation Management—These were presented to the Commission. No changes were noted.

A letter from National Grid was considered. No changes were noted.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM Unanimous approval

Documents: NOI 35 Run Way Map 30 Lot 69 DEP# 196-0484; NOI 1435 Cape Street Map 21 Lot 25 DEP# 196-0485; Minutes of 4/19/2023; Letter Housatonic Railroad; National Grid 5/23/2023

