

Lee Conservation Commission
Minutes of 10/21/13 Meeting

Present: Kathy Arment, Chair, Stu Dalheim, John Philpott and Marilyn Hansen

Ms. Arment opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

7:00 PM: Charles Auster, Chanterwood Rd, continuation of public hearing for dock. No one showed up for this. This hearing will be continued until 11/6/13 at 7:15 PM. Ms. Garry will contact Berkshire Engineering to check on the status of this case.

7:15 PM: CT DEEP, feasibility study for zebra mussels in Laurel Lake continuation of public hearing. The applicant asked that this hearing be continued until 11/20/13 at 7:00 PM.

7:30 PM: Broadway Electric, RDA for 415 Stockbridge Rd for installation of solar array. Michael Novak of Meridan Associates, Richard Kirby of LEC Environmental Consultants and Dennis Daru of Broadway Electric were there for the presentation. Mr. Kirby reminded the Commission that a site inspection had taken place earlier in the year. He said that it is important to maintain the amount of naturally occurring water flow of the site. Based on their pre-construction evaluation they plan to construct a new channel 15' wide x 500' long x 1' deep and install check dams every 100' to handle the run off. The check dams are there to help slow down the speed of the water as it flows through the channel and they will allow some sediment to settle out. The channel will be seeded with an erosion control mix that is used in detention basins. The array will be surrounded by a chain link fence. The naturally occurring channels, within the fencing, will be flattened and the naturally occurring channels, outside of the fencing, will be left alone. Tree removal will occur within the limit of work which is outside the buffer zone. Erosion controls will be installed along the limit of work. The post for the array will be driven into the ground, no digging will be needed. Broadway Electric will be responsible for the maintenance of this site for the next 20 years and then it will be the responsibility of the Town to maintain the site. An abutter, Bob Bartini, spoke about his concern that the water coming off the site will affect him more adversely than it does now. Mr. Kirby tried to reassure him that the amount of water flowing through the site will not increase or decrease as a result of this project. Mr. Kirby also suggested that with the new channel, check dams and detention basin should help and cut down on the erosion problem Mr. Bartini is experiencing since the same amount of water will be going at a slower speed. The Commission voiced concern about the new channel filling up with sediment and then the effectiveness would be diminished. The Commission suggested: 1) Make the grass swale be deeper. 2) That there be more check dams (perhaps every 50'). 3) Modify the detention basis at the end of the swale to make is either larger or deeper. The hearing was continued until 11/6/13 at 7:30 PM.

7:45 PM: Broadway Electric, NOI for 385 Pleasant St for installation of solar array. Richard Kirby of LEC Environmental and Dennis Daru of Broadway Electric were there

for the presentation. Mr. Kirby said that this site is bordering land subject to flooding at elevations from 860' to 863'. He said that they took a very conservative approach to determining the amount of alteration of this site. Ms. Garry asked what the total amount of compensatory storage was. Mr. Kirby looked over the specs and said he would add the amounts up and get back to me with that number. The Commission mentioned that there was debris that they would like to see removed. Mr. Kirby said that some of that would be removed by Broadway and some could be done by the Lee DPW. Ms. Arment made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Philpott, vote unanimous.

8:00 PM: Laurel Lake Preservation Association re: results of 2012-2013 winter drawdown study of Laurel Lake. The Association had emailed a copy of this study to the Commission prior to this hearing. We were joined by members of the Lenox Conservation Commission (see attached sign in sheet). Dr. Ken Wagner made the presentation for the Association. He mentioned that zebra mussels are found in shallow water, less than 5' – 7'. The drawdown has been in the 3' range with a benefit to 5'. The drawdown seems to be helping with the zebra mussel infestation. There were fewer zebra mussels than there were the previous year. Dr. Wagner felt that the drawdown along with the lack of substrate contributed to fall off in their numbers. The drawdown favors annual species (seed and spore producers) which appear to be increasing in shallow water. The drawdown negatively impacts Eurasian watermilfoil but this species cannot be controlled by drawdown. He was asked about any impact to the lake from farm runoff. He said year to year not so much but over time the runoff can create problems. Dr. Wagner suggested that it might be beneficial to increase the depth of the drawdown from 3' to perhaps 4' or 5'. He asked the Lenox Conservation Commission what information they would want from the Association in order to consider a deeper drawdown. Hydrology of the watershed was mentioned. The concern is that the Lake will not refill after a deeper drawdown. Information on the effects of the drawdown on fisheries was also mentioned.

Building permit signoffs: Bartini, Stockbridge Rd., addition; Hogencamp, 320 Washington Mt. Rd., addition; Todd Burdick, 140 Church St., addition; Joseph Pandolfo, 320 Housatonic St., foundation work; Nathan Sondrini, 95 Laurel St., replace support piers; Linda Gregg, 100 Franklin St., replace concrete slabs; Tom Wickham, 45 Davis St., garage addition; Tom Wickham, 505 Laurel St., deck improvements; David Babcock, 39 Cliffwood St., porch repair; Mark DiGrigoli, 545 Leisure Lee Rd, rebuilding deck supports.

Ms. Arment made a motion to close the meeting at 9:15 PM, Mr. Philpott seconded, vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Garry