



## Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Feb. 12, 2020

7:00 pm to 10:25 pm

### In Attendance

- Chuck Andersen
- Barbara DeVore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochelle
- Lundy Lewis
- Ann Moser
- Matt Robinson-Liu

Also attending: Chris Pratka, potential member, and members of the public.

Barbara moved we accept January 2020 minutes. Lundy seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bob D. moved we accept the minutes from the special meeting on Jan. 30, 2020. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Received a check from **Chappell Farms for \$5,290.82** as down payment on the logging of parcel B-17-1. Money to be deposited in Land Protection fund.

Received rent check from Dennis Graham for \$1,350.00 as rent on 135 Old Ashby Rd. property for Q1 2020. Money to be deposited in the Old Ashby Road fund.

Received letter from DES that 135 Old Ashby Rd. has been randomly selected as a water well NHDES is willing to sample and evaluate at no cost to us. All agreed that we should take advantage of this offer. Bob L. will follow up with DES. Barbara moved we accept the offer. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Liz moved we pay **William N. Lamarre Concrete Products, Inc. for \$1,575.00** for a 50% deposit on the concrete bridge/culvert to replace the Mason Quarry emergency access road bridge. Anna seconded. Passed unanimously.

Liz moved we pay **Drescher and Dokmo \$1,660.50** to complete payment for his work on the LCHIP complaint letter. Anna seconded. Passed unanimously.

Liz moved we reimburse **Mason Highway Dept. \$85.60** for signs they ordered on our behalf. Bob D. seconded. Passed unanimously. Liz also moved we reimburse **Mason Highway Dept. \$41.88** for more signs they ordered on our behalf. Bob D. seconded. Passed unanimously.

Met with Curt Spacht, Darrell Scott, Joe Harney, and Dick Stockdale regarding trails work on conservation land. All four are interested in helping with trail work. Liz suggested we make then alternate CC members so they'll be covered by Town insurance when doing trail work. Liz moved that we establish a Trails Committee with at least one full member to plan, coordinate, and execute this work. Bob D. seconded. Passed unanimously. Members Bob D. and Bob L. volunteered to participate as full CC members. In addition to Curt, Darrell, Joe, and Dick, Kathy Chapman and Chris Pratka also volunteered.

Re. OPDMD policies, Chuck reports that the situation might have changed since we were last educated on this matter. In particular, Chuck says it's now accepted practice to have a town-wide policy that lists property-specific exceptions as appropriate as opposed to a separate written policy for each "facility" as was our current understanding. Chuck suggested Upper Valley Land Trust and CES as possible sources of info. Regardless, Bob D. noted our Rail Trail signs need to be updated. Chuck volunteered to review the signs and suggest changes.

Discussed the need to meet with the BOS to discuss our payment to PLC for executory interest in B-4-2. Liz will speak with Kathy Wile about getting on the BOS agenda.

Discussed how to use our public email address. Bob D. suggested we use it as input-only and set up an auto-response to tell them we'll discuss the issue at the next meeting, etc. Bob D. will draft an auto-response message.

Agreed on our top 5 topics for Rosanna to pursue as part of her CC legacy project:

1. Wildlife Habitat Creation, Conservation and Management
2. Mason Conservation Lands Acquisition
3. Wetland Rules & Regulations
4. Easement Monitoring
5. Evaluating Ecological Impact of Development

Reviewed LCHIP's letter to Attny. Drescher responding to our response to their complaints about alleged violation to the Fifield easement. LCHIP "considers the matter closed".

Liz reports that at about 2000 ft. north from Depot Rd. a private trailhead has been constructed on parcel G-25 connecting to the Mason Rail Trail. The work involved removing part of a boundary wall. They also placed a "No Trespassing" sign within

the Rail Trail right-of-way. Liz will draft a letter articulating our concerns and inviting the relevant party to attend a CC meeting to discuss.

Briefly reviewed what Barbara and Bob D. learned at ROST a few weeks ago. In particular Amherst CC has developed a program for monitoring conservation land that involves a spreadsheet and other computer technologies that could be useful to us. Barbara will follow up to request their spreadsheet and monitoring report form.

Barbara reported on some upcoming programs for Earth Day:

1. Public education programs: Senior program with breakfast and tree education seminar (April 12 @ 10:15), and N.E. Cottontail project (April 30 @ 7 PM).
2. Roadside cleanup. A-1 will provide the free dumpster. Charlie Lanni will post an item in Jomarc.

Time again to consider getting sugar maples to plant along Greenville Rd. Chuck volunteered to look into sourcing the trees for us through his nursery.

**Action Items**

*See relevant minutes for more information about these items.*

<i>Added</i>	<i>Finished</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Item</i>
Jan 2020	Jan 2020	Bob D.	Ask PLC for details about "executory interest".
	Jan 2020	Liz	Draft set of Master Plan survey questions.
		Bob D.	Draft checklist of conditions to monitor for Fifield easement.
	Jan 2020	Bob L.	Draft letter of recommendation to BOS for Chuck A. appointment.
	Jan 2020	Lundy	Ask Lamarre if they can do a site plan for the quarry access road bridge.
Feb 2020	Feb 2020	Bob L.	Follow up with DES re. their offer to test well water at 135 Old Ashby Rd.
		Barbara	Write recommendation letter to BOS for making Trails Committee members alternate CC members.
		Chuck	Review Rail Trail signs w.r.t. to new OPDMD policy.
	Feb 2020	Liz	Speak to Kathy W. about getting on BOS agenda re. PLC purchase of B-4-2
	Feb 2020	Bob D.	Draft auto-response for public email address and circulate for review.
		Barbara	Get info about monitoring from Amherst CC.
		Chuck	Investigate sources of sugar maples for Greenville Rd.
		Liz	Draft letter to landowners with new private trail connection to RR Trail.
	Feb 2020	Bob L.	Draft letter of recommendation to BOS for Chris Pratka appointment.
		Bob L.	Get GPS coordinate for Quarry access bridge to Liz for wetland permit