



Conservation Commission

Town of Townsend

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Jennifer Eaton, Vice Chair (2023)

James LeCuyer (2022)

Anne LeCuyer (2023)

James Gates (2024)

Joan Savoy, Clerk (2024)

Jessica Consolvo, Conservation Agent

Matt Matos, Administrative Assistant

Meeting of the Townsend Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

SELECTMEN'S CHAMBERS, 272 MAIN STREET, TOWNSEND, MA

Or via remote ZOOM for convenience

Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technical problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required to by law. Members of the public with interest in a specific agenda item should make plans for in-person attendance.

TCAM Inc. is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641924043?pwd=UHllaGp2dGl0dVhxRm9JaklYdW5pZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 4192 4043

Passcode: 544731

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1.0 Preliminaries – Votes May Be Taken:

1.1 - Call the meeting to order and roll call Meeting called to order by Vice Chair JE at 7:03PM under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Townsend Wetlands Bylaw (TWB).

Roll Call: AL (Present via Zoom), JL (Present via Zoom), JS (Present), JE (Present), JG (Present at 7:10PM)

1.2 - Announce the meeting is being video recorded. Is anyone else recording? No one else is recording.

1.3 - Chairman's Additions and/or Deletions

JS makes a motion to delete item 3.3, AL seconded

JS (Y) JL (Y) AL (Y) JE (Y) JG (Absent). The motion passes.

1.4 – Chair's report JE would like to announce a format change for hearings/agenda items that will be effective immediately. After the topic is opened and the information is presented each commissioner will have an opportunity to comment or question before proceeding to public comments. JS also informs JL that a town employee reached out to Joan and wanted her to send out a query to the Secretary of State, questioning if JL would have to recuse himself on items voted on during CC meetings that he had already voted on, while serving with the Board of Health. JL believes that serving on an appointed and an elected board simultaneously is allowed, and he should be able to vote on items brought to both boards.

1.5 - Review/Approve the meeting minutes from 2/24/22 The minutes from 2/24/22 have not been completed yet and they will be voted on at the CC's next meeting on 3/23/22.

1.6 - Agent's report JE reads JC's written agent's report as JC wasn't able to make it to the meeting. There has been one septic sign off for 82 Ball Rd and there have been no building permit signoffs. The comments on 32 Main St have been submitted to the Planning Board and there have been four site visits by departmental staff to CC owned land as of 3/23. The OOC for 63 Adams Road and the RDA for 45 Warren Rd were mailed out on 3/2. The Campbell Farm CR was signed & recorded on 3/3. Site visits to the Squannacook Greenways Rail Trail and 46 Emery Rd were conducted on 3/2. There was also a site visit by departmental staff to 1 Brown Rd for wetland buffer review and proposed site improvements.

2.0 Hearings and Appointments– Votes May Be Taken:

2.1 – 7:10 PM – Continuation of Notice of Intent, DEP #308-689, TWB 2022-119

Applicant: Jeremiah Kimball

Location: 82 Ball Road

Project/Status: The proposed project is the construction of a single-family house, with detached barn, private well, driveway, septic system, and related site grading. This construction will take place within a 100 foot buffer of a bordering vegetated wetland.

JG arrives at the beginning of the hearing and JE welcomes Jeremiah Kimball & Chris MacKenzie (JK's representative) who are on the zoom call. CM starts off by mentioning that the Board of Health have not approved the septic design yet. CM then shares his screen so that the CC can review the plans, which have been updated since their meeting on 2/24. The barn is now 42' by 50' and is 60 feet away from the surrounding wetlands. The barn and the house are planned to be 1 story which CM hopes addresses the concern from the CC regarding the size of the buildings. CM also points out that the silt fence has been added to the plan, alongside the straw waddles, as additional erosion control. The erosion control barriers will run along the entire work site between the wetlands to the north and west of the property. The proposed treeline will be the limit of work depicted by the erosion control barrier. JS points out that

the entire project is in the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which have special considerations from the state. Her concern is that the barn is being used to store cars which could result in oil leaking into the wetlands, since the whole project, outside of the septic, is within the 100 foot wetland buffer. JS also asks about the amount of tree clearing that will need to be done and CM informs the CC that the trees are sparse where they will be working, so not many will need to be taken down. The majority of the tree clearing will take place outside of the 100 foot buffer. On the site visit there was discussion about the tree clearing and most of the trees that would be taken down are dead already or would die anyway from the disturbance caused by construction. JG asks where they plan to put the soil pile and JK states that the plan is to have the soil pile, material, equipment, and any staging be located at his property next door, 84 Ball Rd. JG asks for them to place a silt fence around the soil pile to ensure that none of it runs off into the wetlands. JK confirms that the floor of the barn will be concrete, and the pitch of the barn will be away from the wetlands. JG also lets the applicant know that if they plan on paving the barn driveway, they should be mindful of stormwater runoff, he suggests gravel as a permeable driveway option. JK is not sure how they plan to create the driveway yet, but CM does point out that stormwater runoff will run towards the property and not towards the wetlands. JL approves of the project and wants to make sure that the CC is focused on only controlling what is in their jurisdiction. There is some discussion between the CC as to if they can ask for selective cutting or mitigation but for this project specifically it is deemed unnecessary. There is also discussion as to if the CC can ask for installations in the barn to control for oil spills, but it is eventually deemed outside their jurisdiction. The CC approve with a standard OOC including the special condition that a silt fence be placed around the material stockpile, on the downward slope between the surrounding wetlands.

*JG motions to approve and issue the OOC, JL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

*JG motions to close the hearing, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

2.2 – 7:30 PM – Request to Amend an OOC, DEP #308-669, TWB 2022-121

Applicant: Joan Wotkowicz

Location: 80 Main Street

Project/Status: The applicant is requesting to amend a previously approved OOC. The proposed amendment would be for an infiltration trench, the addition of coarse stone on the trail, and to improve the existing canoe launch with crushed stone/rip rap.

JS points out that the CC visited the site alongside the applicants and the location of the proposed changes were shown and discussed. JG is abstaining from this hearing in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest. Joan Wotkowicz and Bill Rideout of Squannacook Greenways are at the meeting in person, and they submit the proof of mailings, alongside a check for the fees, to the CC at the start of the hearing. In addition to the site visit the CC have also had a chance to review the drawing of the plans that JW provided, and they approve of the project.

*JL motions to approve the Amended Requests to the OOC, AL seconded
JL (Y) AL (Y) JS (Y) JE (Y) JG (A). The motion passes.*

Since AL & JL are not able to come in to sign the Request and the CC would not have a quorum of signatures without them MM asks for their approval to sign on their behalf. Both AL & JL give their permission.

*AL motions to close the hearing, JL seconded
JS (Y) JL (Y) AL (Y) JE (Y) JG (A). The motion passes.*

3.0 Work Session – Votes May Be Taken:

3.1 – TWB 2022-120, 46 Emery Road Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal of trees immediately adjacent to both a pond and surrounding wetlands The applicant has asked the CC if they can continue this hearing to a later date.

*JG motions to continue, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

3.2 – Mandatory Referral Notice from ZBA regarding 169 Wallace Hill Road The CC has no comments to submit to the ZBA on this matter.

3.3 – Review Highway Department's SOPs for winter snow removal/road salting 3.3 has been removed from the 3/9 meeting by vote of the CC

3.4 – Decide on a nominee for open space committee The town is looking for the CC nominee to serve on the open space committee. The OSC will be meeting once a month until the end of 2022 in order to work on the new Open Space and Recreation Plan. The CC ask Colby Streeter if he would have any interest in being the CC representative. CS states that he could potentially be the representative, but it would depend on the time commitment, and he would like more details. MM mentions that Mike Crowley, the Land Use Coordinator, would be the person to ask about the OSC.

3.5 – Vote on CC Volunteer Response Form submitted by Colby Streeter The CC fill in AL & JL, who were absent, on what happened in the last meeting where CS was interviewed. AL mentions that they have had a chance to review the VRF and they think he would make a great committee member.

*JG motions to recommend CS's appointment to the CC, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously. The BOS will vote on his appointment at their next meeting.*

4.0 Correspondence – Votes May Be Taken:

4.1 – THRT Conservation Restriction has been successfully executed & recorded The CC is pleased that the paperwork has now been finalized.

5.0 Education and Conferences – Votes May Be Taken:

5.1 – Earth Day discussion JE would like any participation from the CC to focus on educating the public on invasive species, beneficial plantings, the benefits of wetlands etc. AL has the idea to have something that would appeal to children such as little cups of soil where they can plant flowers. The CC like this idea as well as JS's idea to bring back a town well guessing game from past Earth Days. The CC plan to have plenty of informational handouts and their goal is to bring in some volunteers for help on future conservation projects.

5.2 – ACEC regulations discussion JS has spoken to someone at the Department of Conservation and Recreation. They would like for the CC to incorporate more ACEC protections into their regulations. Nancy Putnam of the DCR would be willing to come to a meeting and talk to the CC about an outreach program they are planning. The CC decide to table this discussion until NP is able to attend a meeting.

6.0 Items for discussion at next meeting:

ACEC discussion pending NP's availability, 46 Emery Road RDA

7.0 Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 at 7:00 pm, BOS Chambers, 2nd floor. This meeting will

also be held via virtual Zoom remote in accordance with Covid-19 safe meeting guidelines.

8.0 Adjournment:

*JG motions to adjourn at 8:04PM, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously*