

January 10, 2024

[Meeting in person at the Town Hall.]

Present: Chris Duesring, Chair; Mary Williamson, Secretary; Bob Paquet,
Nancy Putnam (Absent: Greg Bralski, Jim Abels, Kai Marti-Woodson)

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm

Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Meeting

Motion: Chris moves that we accept the minutes as revised.

Seconded by Mary.

Vote: unanimous in favor.

Re Crushed Culvert Under Mt. Grace Avenue

Olivier Flagellot contacted the Con Com because he needs to repair the culvert under the road that leads to the barn at the foot of Mt. Grace where he keeps his animals. The culvert accommodates seepage water; it is not a stream. Heavy grain trucks deliver grain 4x a year, so the road needs to be in decent shape for Olivier to support his livestock farming.

Also the state Police + DCR need to use the road to get to the radio/fire tower. Recently DCR repaired the road bed leading to the fire tower because it had become so washed out. It was the DCR trucks carrying road bed gravel that crushed the culvert.

DCR is willing to do all the engineering and the repair work because they caused the problem, but they said it would take a while to get the necessary permits. Olivier volunteered to contact the Con Com to try to facilitate the local permitting.

Currently there are heavy-duty "swamp mats" covering the crushed culvert so the road is passible, but in the spring the company that owns the mats wants to take them back, and then the road will become impassible; so that is why Olivier wants to begin working on a way to get the road repaired.

We need to research agricultural exemptions for this kind of work. Discussed whether Olivier should file an RDA or a NOT.

Site Visit - Chris and Mary met Olivier at the seep crossing on January 4, 2024. Olivier is obtaining the signature of the property owner for an RDA.

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Kelly Restoration Plan - 647 Northfield Rd.

Nancy will call Ward Smith, but there is snow on the ground so we can't see much. We have not heard from them yet since we sent them the letter dated 12/08/23. We could ask to meet them on the land to show them what the Con Com intends and to answer any questions they may have.

Emergency Certification For Tree Removal In The Gulf

Peter Church of DCR came to visit the site, and DCR has agreed to remove the problem trees on the DCR land on the West side of Gulf Rd. They have already marked the trees to be cut.

~~The~~ Warwick Forest Committee is contracting with Mike Mauri to mark the trees on the Warwick Town land on the East side of Gulf Road.

The situation has to be declared a public health or safety emergency in order to qualify for an Emergency Certification.

A copy of the E.C. needs to be sent to DCR.

Special Conditions to be included:

1. Leave stumps in place;
2. ~~Leave~~ trunks may be left parallel to the contour of the steep bank to minimize erosion risk;
3. Any chipping must be no more than 2" deep and no chips ~~Chips must be no more~~ may be put in wetland resource areas.

Mike Mauri said there are no plans for re-planting.

4. all heavy equipment must be kept on the roadway for the work on the east side. (DCR may use the ~~road~~ road on the West side.)
5. If soil disturbance occurs, disturbed areas must be mulched. [Easiest way is to spray compost, but it can be costly.]
6. Prior notification is required. We suggest 48 hours notice. (We will supply a phone # for the Con Com contact person.)

Mike Mauri will be managing the project on behalf of the Town. Eric Reynolds will represent DCR - he is in charge of hazard tree removal for western Mass.

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Forest Cutting Plan for Alden 33 Acres - Hastings Pond Road

An abutter asked the Con Com about the proposed harvest on 33 acres at the South end of Hastings Pond Rd., which will require crossing two seeps on the parcel, one of which has a culvert that is vulnerable ^{to crushing} by having heavy logging trucks cross them.

Logging trucks might also cause harm to the culvert on Hastings Pond Road itself (near the Abels).

We need to be on the look-out for the cutting plan, and try to review it within the first ten days.

New Town Website

The revised website is lacking two current Con Com members. Bob Paquet will follow up with John Paganetti.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Town Hall.

Adjournment: On motion by Nancy, seconded by Bob, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mays Williamson
Secretary