

**Warwick Conservation Commission Meeting,
Warwick Town Hall, November 4, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm.

Commissioners present: Chris Duerring, Chair, Kaila Woodson, Mary Williamson, Jim Abels, Greg Brodsky, Vice Chair, Bob Paquette, and Nancy Putnam

Septic System upgrade - Pre-permitting discussion. Elaine and John Sednecks, 41 Orange Road, owners. Prior system was built in the 50's. The new system will be 20-25 ft. from the drainage ditch, unsure about WPA jurisdiction and if this septic system upgrade will require a permit from the Conservation Commission. The Board of Health will be reviewing the plan on the 20th.

The Conservation Commission scheduled a site visit for Wednesday at 3 PM..

Reading of the October Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Brodsky moved to approve, motion seconded, and all in favor.

Laurel Lake NOI for Drainage Improvements, Erving State Forest, DCR Applicant. Continuation of Public Hearing:

Tom Valton of DCR Engineering (Applicant) and Jessica Marino, representative from AE COM explained the following:

- There was a Site Walk back in September with members of the Conservation Commission to review the proposal with the design engineer.
- Since that onsite meeting, trees were flagged by Commission members to be saved and protected. These trees were GPS'd and are now shown on the plan.
- ~ Pulled back Erosion Control Barriers by the stream at end of the parking lot
- ~ Reduced limits of clearing above road and drainage ditch to be ~ 8 ft. wide
- ~ Replacing culvert under entrance, as it is crushed.
- ~ Added more grass restoration

Commissioner Duerring: We haven't seen updated numbers of impacts on the plans, as we weren't sure, initially, of the extent of the jurisdictional areas.

Commissioner Brodsky: Asked questions about the trees and shrubs. .

Commissioner Putnam: These plans do not reflect all of the wetland resource areas, such as the narrow linear wetland that was flagged by the wetland scientist on the Commission. This wetland and intermittent stream could be restored in place, if the engineer deems that it needs to be altered to handle additional runoff.

Commissioner Brodsky; Commissioners should oversee the grading and the tree protection.

Jessica Marino: Expressed disagreement about the jurisdictional status of the flagged wetland and stated that DCR will not mitigate impacts to this wetland.

Public hearing closed by Commissioner Duerring.

Commissioner Brodsky: Motion to approve the project with conditions including that plans need to show an appropriate revision date.

2nd by Commissioner Woodson, 5 voted in favor and 2 opposed, Motion passed.

Additional Conditions discussed for the Order of Conditions: All plans to be revised with the October date that this latest copy was received, signed and stamped by a civil engineer.

8 out of 27 trees that were flagged will be removed and should be replaced with native species.

Commission shall receive a 7 day prior notice for tree removal.

Commissioner Paquette expressed disappointment that the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation did not present a design for this project that respects the environmental features, including the forest and wetland resource areas associated with Laurel Lake in Erving State Forest.

Athol Road Culvert: C. Duerring will call Matt to see what is happening, concerning progress towards obtaining a design for the necessary replacement stream crossing.

Conservation Restriction monitoring: C. Duerring and N. Putnam walked the property and found many species of invasive plants.

Kelly property, Northfield Road: Commission received an email describing species that were being planted in the restoration areas.

MACC Fall Conference: Commissioner B. Paquette. attended and found it very rewarding and helpful. He described the different sessions that he attended.

Franklin County Planning Commission is offering a Toolkit for culvert replacements, designs, and assessments for municipalities.

Next Meeting Date: Monday December 2nd.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:39pm.