

# Montague Conservation Commission

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## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 17, 2014 – 6:30 pm

Second Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Commissioners Present:** Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Justin Fermann, Donna Francis, Alex Peterkin

**Commissioners Absent:** Addie Rose Holland, Deb Picking, and Sean Werle

**Staff Present:** Walter Ramsey

Mark Fairbrother called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**Approval of June 12, 2014 Minutes:** tabled until next meeting

**Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent #2014-03 filed by Franklin Conservation District and Town of Montague.** Proposed work involves re-establishment of banks in the vicinity of the South Street Bridge (South Street Right-of Way).

The applicant via email to the agent has requested this be continued due to the fact that Natural Heritage and Endangered Species have not provided their comments. There are three concerns on the table and after discussions the changes will be made to the plans and maintenance plan.

- Stone and root wade cluster detail on sheet c-4 does not designate the size of the root wads to be used. The drawings will be modified to reflect the change that the trees will be 12-18 inches in diameter.
- The rip-rap scour protection at abutments detail on sheet c-4 shows filter fabric. As requested the filter fabric will be removed and a stone filter used, if needed. The drawings will be modified to reflect the change.
- The long-term pollution prevention plan/operation and maintenance plan will be edited to state that no work maintenance work shall occur within the Sawmill River between May 1 and June 30 without permission from the Conservation Commission, MADEP, and Natural Heritage. The plan will be modified to reflect this change.

Agent reported that Department of Environmental Protection has issued a file number for the project.

As requested by the applicant the hearing must be conditioned to the next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting.

**Motion** made by Justin Fermann to continue the hearing to August 14, 2014 at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed.**

**Public Hearing: Notice of Intent #2014-04 filed by Franklin Conservation District and Town of Montague.** Proposed work involves the removal of concrete debris from the Sawmill River in the vicinity of the pedestrian bridge at the Sawmill River Recreation Area (Map 192 Lot 117.1).

The applicant, via email to the agent, has requested that the hearing be continued.

Agent reported that Department of Environmental Protection has issued a file number for the project.

**Motion** made by Justin Fermann to continue the hearing to August 14, 2014 at 6:35 PM. Seconded by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed.**

**Items not anticipated in the 48 hours of posting:**

**Cabot Taps Separation Project (NOI 2014-01)**

Exploratory boring were previously permitted. Earlier in the day the Agent was approached by the engineer because the contractor wants to use low ground pressure equipment which has less than 3 psi per square foot instead of swamp mats that were previously approved by the Conservation Commission. Agent reported that this alternative to swamp mats is allowed under Mass General permit conditions (Section 16 heavy equipment in wetlands) if it is less than 3 PSI. The Commission agreed that this change will not have any adverse impact on the resource area or project. Agent will make note of permission for the engineer and file.

**Motion** made by Donna Francis to accept the change from the use of swamp mats to low ground pressure equipment on the cabot tap lines separation project. Seconded by Justin Fermann. **Motion passed.**

**South Street Bridge Enforcement Order**

Suzanne Kretzenger walked in to ask about the South Street enforcement order. She was advised that the Montague DPW will be conducting remediation work the week of August 17 under the guidance of Bill Latrell, the Town's environmental consultant.

**Montague City Road Flooding**

Montague City Road has continued flooding issues made worst in the last few days which have resulted in Walter receiving calls and complaints. This use to be a state highway and they did a better job maintaining the road and addressing the problems as they arose. Tom asked if he could build a berm along the side of road 10 feet off the side to force the brook to stay back. Walter suggested that this would be appropriate as a pre-disaster grant project from FEMA.

**Railroad Spraying**

Alex noted that the railroad has been spraying herbicide on the PanAm line near Greenfield Road. Agent noted that Yearly operational plans are filed annual. RDAs are filed every 5 years to identify resource areas. These notifications come into the Planning and Conservation Office.

**Pipeline news**

Donna brought up that MACC news posted a link if you want to be invited to meetings that involve the proposed pipeline.

**Motion** made by Donna Francis to adjourn the meeting Seconded by Justin Fermann. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_