

# Montague Conservation Commission

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, June 9, 2016 – 6:30 pm**

**Downstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA**

**Commissioners Present:** Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Donna Francis, Alex Peterkin, Sean Werle and Justin Fermann.

**Commissioners Absent:** Deb Picking, Addie Rose Holland

**Staff:** Walter Ramsey – Conservation Agent

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

**Approval of May 5, 2016 Minutes:** tabled to July's meeting after a minor edit.

**Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent #2016-01** filed by Louis Ekus to dredge a canal pond at a residence. The proposed work will dredge approximately 800 cubic yards of sediment; temporarily alter 20 feet of bank and affect 12,750 square feet of Riverfront Area. The property is located at 44 Center Street and is identified as Assessors Map 44 Lot 54.

**Guest:** Lou Ekus

There was site visit on 6/9/16 before the meeting attended by Alex P, Sean W, Donna F. and Walter R.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife & NHESP issued “no take” determination letter. This will be included in the file. The Dredging Permit from DEP is still pending. DEP in their file number letter recommends that the Conservation Commission keep the NOI open until a 401 water quality certificate has been issued.

DEP's file comments also raised a question about whether fill was to be placed in the areas of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding or Undisturbed Riverfront. Walter presented the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map to show the Commission that indeed the fill area was located outside of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and Undisturbed Riverfront. This was also confirmed by the site visit.

The commission was satisfied, but recommends continuing the hearing to July in order for the 401 Water Quality Certificate to be issued by the State.

Lou Ekus requested to have the NOI hearing open to July 14, 2016.

*Mark Fairbrother declared the hearing for NOI #2016-01 to be continued to the next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting on July 14 2016 at 6:30PM at Town Hall.*

## **Updates:**

Alex continues to do some mapping for all the walking trails in Montague for public distribution. A kiosk project funded by the DCR Recreational Trails Program is in progress in the Dry Hill Road area.

Open Space and Recreation Plan has a seven year shelf life so the Town of Montague plan will be updated with some funding from the FRCOG. The previous plan helped to secure the funding for the skate park and the community gardens.

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries have been contacted several times by Walter regarding turnover of the mowing of the management area to the Montague Conservation Commission.

**Motion** made by Donna Francis to adjourn the meeting at 7:01PM. Seconded by Alex Peterkin. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Exhibits:**

NOI 2016-01 File