

Montague Conservation Commission

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 Ext. 207

Fax: (413) 863-3222

Email: planner@montague-ma.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 8, 2016 – 6:30 pm

Upstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Alex Peterkin, Sean Werle Deb Henson, Donna Francis, Addie Rose Holland and Justin Fermann.

Staff: Walter Ramsey - Agent

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Deb Henson to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Donna Francis. Motion passed. Justin Fermann abstained

Ratify a Request for Emergency Certificate EC#2016-01 filed by Integrated Wildlife Control on behalf of Eversource for removal of a new beaver dam behind 212 Montague City Road.

The Conservation Agent received an Emergency Certificate request dated November 16, 2016 from Integrated Wildlife Control on behalf of Eversource Energy. The request seeks to allow for the removal of a small beaver dam that was recently built downstream of an older beaver dam which is located behind 212 Montague City Road. The older dam has a pond leveler that was installed years ago and now flooding from the new dam has negated the effectiveness of the pond leveler. The pond is now flooding an Eversource electric transmission line access road. In addition, past high water levels here have caused problems for neighboring residential cellars especially during heavy rains.

Agent reported a site visit on 11/16/2016 and issued the preliminary EC on that day. The applicant submitted a complete package with photography and clearly listed dam breaching procedures. The Commission has been comfortable with these procedures in the past. The work was completed before the Commission Meeting

Motion made by Sean Werle to ratify the EC #2016-01 filed by Integrated Wildlife Control. Seconded by Justin Fermann. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Workshop. Review Chapter 3 (Community Setting) and Chapter 4 (Environmental Inventory).

Guest: Alyssa LaRose – FRCOG Land Use Planner

After the last discussion with the Commission Alyssa made some adjustments to both documents. The changes are highlighted in the draft chapters. The Commission was satisfied with Chapter 3. Chapter 4 was an early draft and will be reviewed again by the Commission at the next meeting once more information is populated. The Agriculture Commission will be consulted to update the Farm Inventory. Mark Fairbrother will review the bird/wildlife inventory in the appendix. Walter will follow up with some pieces of missing information for Alyssa.

Motion made by Deb Henson to adjourn the meeting at 7:56PM. Seconded by Donna Francis. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Documents: Open Space Recreation Plan Update – Chapter 3 & Chapter 4 DRAFT