

Town of Southbridge
Conservation Commission Minutes
Meeting of April 20, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Present: E. Rumsey, Conservation Agent, Maureen Doyle, Co-Chair, N. Nowick, Co-Chair, and K. Pickren, Vice-Chair

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. A motion was made by M. Doyle to accept the minutes of the April 6th meeting. N. Nowick seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed, unanimous in favor.
3. Methods of advertising for new members were discussed.
4. 6:45 p.m. – Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – BSC Group for Boston Gas Company
Carolyn Gorss from BSC Group was present to discuss this project, the proposed installation of a new pressure release valve including a shelter and associated site work within the Buffer Zone to Inland Bank and Riverfront Area. The site is located at 540 Hamilton Street.

The work is 18ft. above the floodplain elevation and all work will take place in the buffer zone. There will be a crushed stone pad under the shelter, but no net increase in impervious surface. The entire site will be surrounded with erosion controls. The work is planned to take place this summer. No tree removal is planned. A silt sac will be placed in the existing catch basin. Disturbed soil from the burial of the gas and electric lines will be covered in straw mulch.

A motion was made by K. Pickren to close the public hearing. N. Nowick seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed, unanimous in favor. A motion was made by K. Pickren to issue the standard Order of Conditions with the following additional conditions.
 - a. Straw wattles may not be used except around the catch basin. Silt fence should be used instead.
 - b. Notice must be given to the Southbridge Conservation Commission 48 hours in advance of the start of work on the site.
 - c. Spoils must be covered.
 - d. Turtle activity (nesting in spoils, etc.) must be reported to the Conservation Commission.
 - e. The phone number of a site supervisor must be placed in a zip lock bag and attached to the back of the DEP number signage.
- N. Nowick seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed, unanimous in favor.
5. 87 Golf Street – No progress on cleanup or soil testing.
6. A site visit was scheduled for April 27th at 10:00 a.m. at 833 Main Street for proposed drainage work within the buffer zone.
7. M. Doyle distributed BioMap brochures and a brochure about Conservation Options. She also attended the Opacum Breakfast. N. Nowick noted that turtle season is upon us and discussed the upcoming publication of the Book of Turtles.

8. The next meeting will be held on May 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the McCann Room. It was unanimously decided to adjourn. It was approximately 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Loin

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Administrative Assistant