

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

Present: E. Rumsey, Conservation Agent, Maureen Doyle, Co-Chair, N. Nowick, Co-Chair (via teleconference)

1. The meeting was opened at 6:32 p.m. A motion was made by M. Doyle to accept the minutes of the June 22nd meeting. N. Nowick seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. M. Doyle YES, N. Nowick YES. The motion passed.
2. It was unanimously decided to skip to item 5. Agent's Announcements. E. Rumsey reported that cleanup continues at 87 Golf Street, and he has contacted VHB to see who did the testing on Guelphwood Road, so that we may contact them to take and test multiple samples at this site.
3. It was unanimously decided to skip to item 6. Commissioners' Announcements. M. Doyle noted that she attended a workshop and shared some animal track pamphlets and a nature bingo game. She has a poster regarding proper protection against ticks this season and Eric took it to hand in an appropriate place.
4. 6:35 p.m. – Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – BSC Group, Inc. for Town of Southbridge – proposed construction of a multi-use rail trail along the disused railline running along the south bank of the Quinebaug River, activities proposed within the 100-ft. Buffer Zone, 200-ft. Riverfront Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and NHESP Priority/ Estimated Habitat

The clerk read the notice of public hearing and the hearing was reopened. Joe Coan, a landscape architect, was present to discuss this project. A DEP number has been received and there were no comments on the filing. NHESP has also determined that the work will not resort to a taking of endangered species. The trail will be 8-10 feet wide in most places and two bridges will be repaired by the Town. A million and a half in funding will come from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, 2.6 million from a federal source and the remaining will be Town supported. The work is planned to start in November and is scheduled to be completed by 2025. There are funds for trash receptacles – signage would be a nice addition and can be considered after the trail is built.

N. Nowick said she was happy to see this project moving forward, as are all the commissioners. Kevin Buxton, a member of the trails committee echoed that sentiment. Karen Picarski asked if it would be one bid or several and the answer is one bid, but that bidder may subcontract some work.

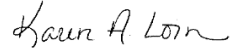
A motion was made by M. Doyle to close the public hearing. N. Nowick seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. M. Doyle YES, N. Nowick YES. The motion passed. A motion was made by M. Doyle to issue a standard Order of Condition with the following specific conditions.

- a. When construction begins, if turtle eggs or baby turtles are discovered, the Turtle Rescue League or the Commission must be contacted immediately as they cannot simply be let into the water at that time of year.
- b. Any drainage or water crossing must be fully secured against debris falling into those water bodies.

N. Nowick seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. M. Doyle YES, N. Nowick YES. The motion passed.

5. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the McCann Room. A motion to adjourn was made by M. Doyle and seconded by N. Nowick. A roll call vote was taken. Doyle YES, Nowick., YES. The motion passed unanimously. It was 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen A. Loin

Administrative Assistant