

Town of Southbridge
Conservation Commission Minutes
Meeting of August 17, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Present: N. Nowick, Co-Chair, K. Buxton, P. Dean, Economic Development (via computer)
Absent with Notice: M. Doyle, Co-Chair

1. The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. A motion was made by N. Nowick to accept the minutes of the July 19th meeting. K. Buxton seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

2. A motion was made by N. Nowick to authorize payment of the MACC dues of \$211.00. K. Buxton seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

3. P. Dean asked whether the commission is able to function with three members. K. Loin will send her the 2008 Kopelman & Page opinion which concluded that due to the WPA language, the commission may consider a quorum to be a majority of the members in office, instead of the number of members that are supposed to make up the board.

4. 87 Golf Street

P. Dean will ask Scott Lazo for an updated schedule for the completion of the remediation. The commission has previously given a deadline of October to complete the work or fines will begin to be assessed. She will also find out more about the results of the one soil sample that E. Rumsey had taken. K. Buxton noted once again that no mechanical removal of the soil is allowed near the stone arch bridge.

5. Pleasant Hills – Erosion

K. Loin will check with M. Julian to see what was found on a site visit with E. Rumsey recently. Then she will schedule a site visit with the commissioners.

6. 631 Charlton Street

Sheri Bemis of 516 Worcester Street has notified M. Julian and now the commission regarding scouring on her property which she believes is caused by tree removal next to Cady Brook by a neighbor as well as some trees having fallen in the brook. Karen will set up a site visit.

7. Ken Comia, former Conservation Agent for the town will fill in beginning the 3rd week of September and meetings will move to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights.

8. Ken's Retirement

Possible ways to commemorate Ken's decades of service to the Conservation Commission were discussed. Either a plaque on a bench on the upcoming rail trail, or signage near a wetland, or both will be considered. P. Dean will email the engineers of the rail trail to determine feasibility of putting a plaque on a bench and to request ideas for bench placement.

9. The next meeting will be held on September 7th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the McCann Room. It was unanimously decided to adjourn. It was approximately 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Loin

Karen A. Loin
Administrative Assistant