

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
March 11, 2020

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Matt Oliveira, Michael Bara, Jack Messe, Karen Miller, Lori Rautiola, Secretary

ABSENT: David McTigue, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Rep)

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office on March 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Karen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Lands: Bob reported some excavation within wetlands on a property on Binney Hill Road. He noted he spoke with someone at the State, and the owner does have a Forestry Notification Permit from the State but he still needs to abide by the regulations. Bob suspects the owner is digging test pits. Matt questioned whether or not the owner was considering a gravel pit and Bob stated he would need to go through the Planning Board. Bob continued stating someone could put a complaint into the State, adding his personal opinion is the Board of Assessors are responsible because they approve the permits and receive funds from the intent to cuts. Bob is convinced the encroachment on the wetlands was more than 3,000 square feet, which means there would be a violation on the property. Karen stated it should at least be presented to the Board of Assessors since they had issued the intent to cut, and what they do with the complaint from there is up to them. Karen also mentioned it is the Commission's responsibility to protect our natural resources in our town so we should do our part in reporting violations.

There was discussion on the Intents to Cut and the Forestry Notification from the State. It was determined the Forestry Notifications are done through the state and not the Board of Assessors who only issue the intents to cut. All complaints should be filed through the state. Bob suggested all members take a drive by and see if they have any concerns.

Bob discussed the process of the intents to cut and stated the Board of Assessors should be going to the property after the reports are filed to make sure the applicant had not taken more than the requested amount of timber than what was requested on the application.

Michael mentioned a new home being built on the corner of Ashby and River Road and thought it seemed close to the River. Bob noted he noticed that as well, but they have a good 65 feet between the structure and the river.

The Commission discussed land protection. Lori asked the Commission if they would be interested in the parcel of land on Greenville Road that the Town now owns. There is a house on the property that will need to be demolished. Bob questioned who would pay for the asbestos/demolition of the building to be removed as that is costly. Lori mentioned one would have to discuss that with the Select board.

Matt mentioned he noticed a 30 acre parcel for sale off Turnpike Road near the Gridley River with access to the Wapack Trail for \$140,000. Bob mentioned he will look into it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola
Secretary