

Chesterfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of meeting: December 18, 2023

Commissioners present: Doug Fraser, John Follet, Ann Pickrell

Commissioner(s) absent: Julia Freedgood, Sherrill Redmon

Others Present: Charlie Doolen, Don Williard, Laura Dimmler, Patti Gosselin

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm
2. Minutes of the November 20, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.
3. Hearings
4. Old business

The lot at 215 East St., map 39 lot 18, was visited because of the concern that the activity may be occurring in the buffer. The previously delineated wetland and the buffer were properly flagged. The activity did not extend into the buffer but its proximity to the buffer led the Commission to request a written agreement between the Commission and Salvini Assoc. LLC. The agreement states that the erosion control barriers will be placed, that the Commission may inspect, and that no activity will occur inside the buffer. Such action would activate an Enforcement Order by the Commission. It was agreed to by all parties.

5. New business

A complaint of a WPA violation at 4 East St. was investigated by the Commission on December 6, 2023. At this location the owner Charlie Doolen has been expanding a parking area with fill and that some of the expansion lies within the buffer of a wetland at the adjacent property. The edge of the expansion has a steep bank that has contributed to erosion into the wetland. The owner was unaware of the presence of the wetland and agreed to any corrective measure. An Enforcement Order was issued that requires owner not intrude further into the wetland, place erosion control measures at the base of the embankment, stabilize the bank now with rip-rap and plantings in the spring, and that the Commission be given to inspect the site in the spring.

6. Other business

1. A Forest Cutting Plan was reviewed. Marked on the site plan were several so-called vernal pools that have not been certified. Skid trails are close to a few of the pools. Concerns about the vulnerability of these pools was shared by email with Sean Libby, DCR Service Forester. In his response he gave assurance that a zone of protection including retained cover and lack of ruts would be maintained. Doug indicated that further protection of migrating amphibians would occur if the logging operation is completed before March when the migration occurs. This recommendation will be passed on to the DCR Service Forester.
2. Present at the meeting was Don Williard, Select Board, who inquired about how property owners are made aware of wetland issues. The process of requiring applicants for building and driveway permits to have the Conservation Commission sign off on the application activates wetlands awareness and our brochure available at various locations as well as its presence on the Town website was explained as

the method. Over the years we have noticed greater awareness by townsfolk of wetlands issues.

3. Laura Dimmler and Patti Gosselin attended because of their interest in filling the vacancy on the commission. The basics of Conservation Commissions was explained and discussed and the roles the Commission is likely to assume with the renewal of the town's Open Space Plan was presented.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Submitted: January 15, 2024

John S Follet

Approved: January 15, 2024