



## TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pelham, Massachusetts

### Minutes for September 12, 2019

Present: Dana MacDonald, David Gross, Tilman Lukas, Meredith Borenstein

Also present: Janice Gifford, Stacy McCullough, Dan McCullough

The meeting was brought to order by Chair MacDonald at 7:07 PM.

#### **Review previous meeting minutes**

The minutes from August 8, 2019 were reviewed and two typos were corrected. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously that the corrected minutes be accepted.

#### **Discussion of remediation for a wet basement at 26 North Valley Road**

Homeowners Stacy and Dan McCullough described a problem with water collection in the basement at 26 North Valley Road. They said that a test hole in the basement produced ground water just below the foundation. They are considering remediation work, either employing a sump pump or installing curtain drainage around the foundation periphery. The Commission noted that peripheral curtain drains, if used, should redirect the flow of the subsurface water. If a sump pump is employed, its efflux should be into a drywell deep enough to be frost-free. After some discussion, the Commission recommended that the homeowners initially install a sump pump with a 100 foot hose that dumps the pumped water to the property surface, perhaps the driveway. If this solves the water problem, then they should install the drywell to accept the sump outflow. If that does not work, then they should contact an installer for foundation drainage. Any substantial outside work should be done after all frost is out of the ground, typically May-November. There was further discussion about the process for submitting a Recommendation for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for Commission consideration.

The homeowners also asked about permitting in order to expand a small deck by about 10 feet. The Commission decided that the deck expansion they described did not require an RDA, although it will require a building permit. Agent Borenstein will send them an AA letter with the Commission's comments. Soil removed during deck construction can be spread on site.

#### **Review of AA letter subsequent to site visit at 117 Buffam Road**

After review of the AA letter to William Wilson, it was moved to approve the letter with one typo correction. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **Discussion of site visit to 22 Amherst Road**

The Commission reviewed its visit to look at the site proposed for affordable senior housing at 22 Amherst Road. There was discussion of the upcoming 40B meeting (joint between the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Housing Committee, and the Planning Board) for the project. Commissioner Lukas will be present at that meeting as will Chair MacDonald.

Pelham Conservation Commission minutes

September 12, 2019

The Commission discussed lighting to be installed on the site and the need to minimize impact on wildlife in the Amethyst Brook corridor. There was concern about the proposed access drive construction as it is near a steep slope that is within the riparian resource corridor.

**Septic repair at 364 Daniel Shays Highway**

The commission reviewed an RDA submitted for septic repair at 364 Daniel Shays Highway. The public meeting for this RDA is scheduled for the next Commission meeting on September 26. Agent Borenstein will schedule a site visit time on September 20 for the Commission to meet with designer Alan Weiss to review the site and construction plan.

**Siltation fence at 141 Amherst Road**

The Commission discussed the siltation fence that is still in place at 141 Amherst Road. It was agreed that Agent Borenstein should email the owner, Michael Ashman, encouraging him to remove the fence and straw bales to allow revegetation to occur within the disturbed area before cold weather sets in.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gross", is positioned to the right of the typed name.