

TOWN OF PELHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR October 12, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dana MacDonald, Cynthia Weigel, Tilman Lukas, David Gross

Chair MacDonald officially opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

The Commission reviewed the request for Determination of Applicability Septic 142 Amherst Rd. (Campbell) from Alan Weiss of Cold Spring Environmental subsequent to confirmation that the announcement of the meeting had been published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on September 28, 2017. The Commission determined that the abutters list and receipts for mailings to abutters have not yet been received by the Commission. The request was continued to the October 26 meeting. Chair MacDonald will contact Mr. Weiss to request the missing documentation and to arrange a site visit by the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the request for Determination of Applicability Septic 141 Amherst Rd. (Clouse) from Alan Weiss of Cold Spring Environmental subsequent to confirmation that the announcement of the meeting had been published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on September 28, 2017.. The Commission determined that the abutters list and receipts for mailings to abutters have not yet been received by the Commission. The request was continued to the October 26 meeting. Chair MacDonald will contact Mr. Weiss to request the missing documentation and to arrange a site visit by the Commission.

The Commission discussed the plan to hire a conservation agent as approved at the spring Town Meeting. Chair MacDonald reported that he has spoken to Susannah Carey and Kathleen Martell regarding posting details for the ad, and they suggest that we split publication of the ad on two consecutive Mondays in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. The ad will also be posted on the Town of Pelham website. We will ask applicants to send their CV or resume to the town administrator. We will begin reviewing applications on Nov. 9 and will do so until the position is filled. The Commission will go into executive session to review applications.

Chair MacDonald reported on stream biota data taken by Thea Kristensen of Amherst College and her students. The chair gave access to Prof. Kristensen to some sites in Pelham for a stream study including a site on Amethyst Brook where the dam was removed plus sites along Buffam Brook. Prof. Kristensen emailed her report of stone fly, etc. densities in the various locations to Chair MacDonald.

The Commission discussed agenda items for the next few meetings. We will review the Pemberton conservation area access plan from The Kestrel Trust on our Nov. 9 meeting in order to provide feedback to Kestrel prior to presentation of the plan at a public meeting on Nov. 30. We will meet with Mike Mauri to review his progress on the Town Forest Stewardship Plan on October 26 or November 9. We will invite Roger Conant to discuss his work on a town trail map or maps on October 26 or November 9.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.

