

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017 7 P.M.
Town Hall, 2ND Floor Conference Room
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.



Present:

Lionel Cloutier, Acting Chairman
Tony George, Member
Kyle Bradley, Member

David Koontz, Conservation Agent
Debra Dennis, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Garrett Davieau
David Whitaker

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Cloutier at 7:03 p.m.

- Bills- A motion was made by Kyle Bradley to approve payment of \$75.00 to the Recording Secretary;
Tony George seconded.
CLOUTIER(Y) GEORGE(Y) BRADLEY(Y)

Notice of Intent (continued)-Town of Winchendon Department of Public Works-Annual Water Level

Drawdowns-Kyle Bradley read the public hearing notice into the record. David Koontz said there has been two public hearings in 2015 concerning notice of intent so far. The previous was for a 3 ½ drawdown. There was concern to effect on wells on lakeside properties. The 3 ½ foot drawdown has been settled. How far can the drawdown go? The issue now is the start time of the drawdown. The association would like middle October. The DEP guidelines say after the beginning of November.

Jon Lewandowski from the Winchendon Springs Lake Association said the initial drawdown was three feet not three and a half. Tony George asked if the lakefront residents have been notified. Ms. Renee Tambling said they notified everyone to the best of their ability. Mr. Lewandowski said they sent letters, it on their website and they went door to door. He said the previous orders of condition had a drawdown set at two feet. Tony George said the drawdown will have an impact on shallow wells. He said he wants to make sure the residents are protected. He agrees with the drawdown. He said he doesn't want anyone to go without water. Mr. Lewandowski explained that there will be bottled water available and there will be houses available for residents to stay if they don't have any water. They said they will also help the resident get in contact with assistance with their well. Tony George said we asked for documentation that you gave us tonight but would like to bring it home to read. He said he would rather wait one month to have time to read over the information. Ms. Tambling said the information given tonight has been provided previously. It's important to have the drawdown early. She discussed the damage that was done do to the boards being put back in prior to the ice going. Dave Koontz said they first removed three six foot boards then removed two twelve inch boards on the east side. Al Gallant Director of Public Works came forward. He said the drawdown went slow. You have to pull 3 ½ feet to get to the three foot drawdown. David Koontz said the safest way is to remove three six inch boards on the west side. Ms. Tambling said that is not acceptable. We are asking for a little at a time. Al Gallant said he doesn't have a problem with the drawdown. He has control in the fall but not in the spring. Acting Chairman Cloutier said we have to control the water to the White Mill. David Koontz read into record a statement from Ms. Giovanoni the owner of White's Mill. Ms. Giovanoni in the statement asked for a delay of the drawdown. David Koontz read the comments concerning the drawdown made by the DEP. David Koontz said his opinion is DEP doesn't have any specific dates on the White's Mill dam and the drawdown. Tony George said we should do the drawdown at a slower rate. Give them forty five days for the

drawdown instead of thirty. He said he would like to get town council's answers to their questions. He would like to continue the meeting so David Koontz can talk to the attorney. **Tony George moved to allow the early three foot drawdown with the early start of October 15th pending response of the town attorney to liability and would like to continue the hearing.** David Koontz said we have a little time to continue the hearing. Kyle Bradley seconded the motion.

CLOUTIER(Y) GEORGE(Y) BRADLEY(Y)

Kyle Bradley motioned to continue the hearing until April 27th; Tony George seconded.

CLOUTIER(Y) GEORGE(Y) BRADLEY(Y)

Notice of Intent Continued- Mr. Grasewicz said he wanted to give an update on what has happened. He said he met with DPW, Fire, and Police and discussed with the Planning Board the desire to have an acceleration lane. This would be three hundred feet. He said he is proposing to increase the existing breakdown lane to eleven feet wide. He said he is proposing adding an infiltration trench forty to fifty feet away from the wetlands. David Koontz said the plan was submitted to the Planning Board. Mr. Grasewicz said there is a continuation of the Public Hearing and will be meeting this coming Tuesday. Tony George said now there proposal is widening the road outside of the fifty foot no disturb. Mr. Grasewicz said it's within the fifty foot no disturb. Tony George said he has concern with the amount of water going through the swall. David Koontz said the town's consulting agent has said it is fine. **Kyle Bradley motioned to continue the hearing until April 27, 2017; Tony George seconded.**

CLOUTIER(Y) GEORGE(Y) BRADLEY(Y)

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Janet Morrison Update on Gardner & Winchendon Landscape Connection Project-**Janet Morrison came forward and said she wanted to give an update. She said they are almost done phase one of the land conservation. The project involved Department of Fish and Wildlife. She said they received a grant for phase two. She said when it's all said and done there will be eight hundred and fifty acres conserved.
- **Follow up on Public Hearing to establish filing fees under the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw-**David Koontz discussed changes to the bylaw concerning filing fees. He said if they all agree the next step is to have a joint hearing with the Board of Selectmen. **Kyle Bradley motioned to authorize David Koontz to go to the Board of Selectmen to get the Conservation Commission on their agenda schedule as soon as possible; Tony George seconded.**

CLOUTIER(Y) GEORGE(Y) BRADLEY(Y)

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kyle Bradley to adjourn the meeting; Tony George seconded

CLOUTIER(Y) GEORGE(Y) BRADLEY(Y)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Debra A. Dennis
Recording Secretary

Tony George
David Koontz
Kyle Bradley