

Charlemont Conservation Commission
June 12th, 2025, 7:00 PM
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Bill Harker, Thorne Palmer, Clay Herbert, Scott Randall

Others Participating: Monte Krusz, Star Atkeson

Thorne Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Action items:

1. Review / Approve Minutes from May 8, 2025

Bill Harker made a motion to approve the May 8th Minutes as written. Clay Herbert seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. 180 8A update

Thorne let the Board know that Brian Dupree asked for an extension. He was short again, only moving 2 cars and scrap. He wants to get the cars out. He moved 100 cars out in the last year which is more than he's ever done.

The Board discussed the situation. Bill went over his past experience with the clean-up which was disappointing, and mentioned that the autos were more important to remove than the scrap, as scrap does not leak fluids as the cars may. Thorne said there was a lot of progress made this time.

Thorne proposed going up to visit and discussing an extension date at the next meeting.

They discussed dates to go up.

3. Resilient Deerfield River Watershed Coalition maps to input watershed related items.

Star showed the Board the map of the Deerfield River and the abutting properties and Bill Harker filled in whether the property was a business, residential, agriculture or industrial.

Discussion items:

1. Work being done at Mohawk State Forest

Bill said that they were cutting and cleaning up some hazard trees by the river. They had asked for an okay. They can cut up to 50%. He told Circuit Rider Mark Stinson.

2. 225 Avery Brook Road projects

Bill Harker went to look at the driveway build at 225 Avery Brook Road. They cleared the top of the hill and roughed in the road. There were no culverts yet. There was not enough progress to inspect. Bill told them to call him, when they were done and he would come back.

3. 110 W. Oxbow Road, building permit sign off, needs NOI

Thorne said that Leroy Page was told that he needs to submit an NOI for the driveway build for the new house that is being built. Currently, the Conservation Commission has not signed off on the building permit for that reason.

4. Beaver dam on E. Hawley Rd at the end of Thunder Lane

The board spoke about the beaver dam that is currently on Monte Krusz' land and brainstormed the options. There are beaver deceivers that were installed by engineers from Vermont that he doesn't want to disturb. Monte suggested taking apart 4 feet at a time. He mentioned that his neighbor seems opposed to Monte altering the dam. There is currently about 5 feet of water in his hayfield.

Board of Health is the Board in charge of the beavers, and the Conservation Commission is in charge of the dams.

Bill said that the water dammed by the beavers will give his neighbors a flooding problem as well. He said there is a Vermont fence company that has a year-round contract with the highway department. He's not sure if the previous highway boss told the current highway boss about it.

Monte was given an emergency certification form to fill out to remove the dam. The Board will write in that he should remove the dam up to the beaver deceiver wire.

Bill said that Monte can come back to the Conservation Commission for an extension as it will be an ongoing process to slowly break apart the dam.

Clay Herbert made a motion to approve the emergency certification form. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Acknowledgement:

Bill Harker approved the Whip City internet fiber install at 2183 Route 2.

Clay Herbert motioned to close the meeting at 8:18 Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of June 12, 2025
- Minutes of May 8, 2025
- Emergency certification form for Howard (Monte) Krusz
- Resilient Deerfield Watershed map