

**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF CHARLEMONT
PUBLIC MEETING**

January 7, 2015

Members Present

Ruth Cannavo
Tim Eichholz
Amy Chattin
Douglas Forbes
Douglas Johnson

Members Absent

Bill Harker

Others Present

Phil Banks
Paul Fantucchio
Bill Lattrell

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

The Commission continued discussion of an RDA regarding wetlands and storm drains at Mohawk Park, with Bill Lattrell representing Paul Fantucchio. Lattrell said he had communicated with Tim McKenna, DEP, but could not make an accurate assessment of the site until after the spring thaw. A motion was made by Ruth Cannavo to table this issue until June. This was unanimously approved.

Phil Banks presented the Commission with a complaint about silt washed during rain events down the ridge north of Zoar Road, into and through a wetland to the east of the trailer park, then through ditches and culverts and onto his property south of the road. This silt clogs the ditches and culverts, and results in tree mortality on his property. He believes that the source of this silt is the Zoar Gravel Pit and lack of proper implementation of sediment control there as mandated in the operating permit issued by the Town. The Commission agreed to make a site visit to the affected wetland after the spring thaw, but noted that this was the only part of the issue jurisdictional under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA). Other issues relate to the relevant operating permit mentioned above.

There followed discussion of possible violation of the WPA reported by Mark Stinson at 224/225 Avery Brook Road. It appears that the Commission erroneously permitted construction at this location within the riverfront area of Avery Brook. D. Forbes volunteered to find and examine the relevant paperwork.

Mark also reported tree clearing in the riverfront area along the Deerfield River by Doug Dean at Mile Long Farm located along the Mohawk Trail. As Mr. Dean has both agricultural and commercial operations on this property D. Forbes volunteered to contact M. Stinson regarding what activities are exempt.

The resignation of Neal Lear from the Conservation Commission was noted. Ruth Cannavo was nominated to be the new chairperson. Her cheerful acceptance was unanimously approved. Douglas Johnson was welcomed as a new member.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Mail was reviewed.

Business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

D.J. Forbes