

**Charlemont Conservation Committee**  
**December 14th, 2023 6:00 PM**  
**Via conference call and in person, Town Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Participating: Thorne Palmer, Barbara Beall, Scott Randall

Others Participating: Bella Levavi, Greg Rowehl, Brian Dupree, Star Atkeson (secretary.)

Thorne called the meeting to order 6:03 P.M.

**Discussion items:**

1. Catch new members up on recent and future ConComm business and typical duties they can expect to carry out as board members.

Scott had read the minutes, so was aware of the recent business. The Board let him know about training that he can take from MACC. They set him up with his email activation information.

2. Clearing of land near 1500 Rte. 2.

Thorne spoke about the clearing around Rte 2 past The Olde Willows. The owner wants to open a campground. They are not sure what the address is and are not sure who the owner is or what is going on with it. They do believe that it is within 200' of the river. The Board will visit and measure. Barbara said they need to do an RDA. They would like to figure out who the owner is and what their plan is.

**Action item:**

1. Write up Enforcement order for property at 180 8A North
  - Thorne wanted to figure into the accounting the new wrecked cars that arrive as well as the cars that go out.
  - The Board spoke about the previous enforcement orders and questioned why they did not work. One of the answers was that the progress was not monitored. From Brian's point of view, it has to do with whether he has help or not. Barbara wanted to understand how the process works in regard to the titles of the car and the process for having them removed.
  - The Commission want no cars within 200' of the brook. That will need to be sorted out because Brian's shop is within 100' of the brook and he will have temporary cars parked there, within the 200'. Brian offered that he can get rid of the old stuff and move back cars that are within 200'. Dupree estimates @ 40 cars are within 200' of the Brook.
  - Thorne said he wanted to see an inventory and titles. Dupree said some cars have titles and some don't; some were abandoned. Dupree thinks the police need to do the paperwork. Barbara wants more information on who is supposed to do what, and when. Dupree thinks it will be an additional expense for him.
  - Barbara asked whether there has been soil testing or if the Board of Health has been there lately. No, Doug has not been there recently and there has been no soil testing.
  - Barbara asked who on the committee will be monitoring the progress. Thorne wants to set up a ConComm calendar through the town computer network—Teams, and schedule a visit every three months as well as getting receipts from the cars that have gone and a list of cars staying

there including photographs. Dupree confirmed that he was not doing towing. He used to have 4 or 5 wrecks at a time and now it's holding at @ 2 cars. Insurance companies want to move quickly. Barbara will be out of the country in January but would like to come and look in February. She also would like the Board of Health to go up.

- Barbara Beall said: *"It is important to make a statement in the public record about the reason why the Wetlands Protection Act is important. I get my water from a well...All we have are wells and springs in Charlemont, we are pretty much blessed with a good water supply. We can't do something that pollutes it. That is why the Wetlands Protection Act is so important our drinking water is so precious."*
- Thorne will see what Doug, BoH recommends, and he will reach out to Mark Stinson.
- Dupree said that most of the cars in the front can go. Barbara asked Dupree to prepare a list of what is there. Dupree hopes the enforcement order can include the wording of "cars that are moving." He said it needs to be worded that way so that he can keep customer cars there.
- Scott Randall reiterated that the cars need to be moved back from the water supply 200 ft, and agreed with Barbara that the water and soil should be tested.
- **Thorne Palmer motioned to table the 8A enforcement order with the understanding to have a plan ready for February. Barbara Beall seconded the motion. All in Favor.**
- Greg Rowehl shared his opinions on how he thinks it should be done. He thinks a spreadsheet is important with VIN numbers, make and model, and thinks the title is key for junking cars.

2. Budget request FY2025

Star will check with accountant regarding the expense account vs. The Wetlands protection Fund and get Thorne to do the request as Chair.

3. Thorne to nominate Barbara Beall to Chair the Conservation Commission

Barbara would like to defer the nomination until February.

4. \*\*Review and Approve Meeting Minutes 8/10/2023, 8/24/2023, 9/21/2023, 10/11/2023

**Thorne Palmer motioned to accept August 10th and 24th, September 21<sup>st</sup>, and October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes as written. Barbara Beall seconded the motion. Thorne Palmer —Aye, Barbara Beall — Aye.**

The next meeting will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Documents reviewed in meeting:

Excel excerpt for Budget request