

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTES
July 17, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Alessi, Byron Quinn
MEMBERS ABSENT: Bo Gibbs, Lynn Peterson, Cyndy Kozara, Howard Krum, Bethany Powers
OTHERS PRESENT: Kelly Stettner, Rhonda Benoit, Michelle Davis, Paige Greenfield, Michael Brands

I. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

II. MINUTES

Approval of the June 19, 2019 minutes was continued.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Black River Action Team

Ms. Stettner, founder of the Springfield Black River Action team 19 years ago, presented information on the Japanese Butterbur, a new invasive. A five page handout was distributed on the plant.

Ms. Benoit, another member, aided the presentation. She actually discovered the plant along a brook at the bottom of Peterkin Hill Road where it intersects Fletcher Hill Road. A map noting the location was submitted.

The plant likes wet and shady areas. It has large leaves resembling elephant ears. It has a flower like rhubarb. The plant is available for purchase online.

Ms. Stettner will pass the information along to Mike Bald, an invasive plant expert.

The best way to remove the plant is to dig it out and lay it in the sun to dry out.

The plant has also been found in Burlington, VT and Manchester, NH.

The CC thanked Ms. Stettner and Ms. Benoit for presenting the information.

B. TRORC

Ms. Davis, TRORC volunteer, and Ms. Greenfield, TRORC Planner, met with the CC as part of the TRORC's outreach efforts to meet with all of the region's CC organizations.

Chair Alessi noted the CC has a long term relationship with TRORC. Most recently this spring, TRORC's Planners Pete Fellows and Kevin Geiger met with the CC on Forestry Blocks and Wildlife Corridors.

The CC benefits from having TRORC headquartered in Woodstock. This makes it easy to coordinate efforts between the two. The TRORC, as a member of the community, also has a good understanding of Woodstock's citizens and its issues.

The CC works as an advisory commission to the two Development Review Boards, Town and Village. Most CCs in other towns of the region do not have this capacity.

The Town Planner explained this is written into the Zoning Regulations. Applicants are required to meet with the CC before meeting with either of the DRBs. Woodstock is on the leading edge, statewide on many issues, such as Scenic Ridgetop Zoning, Class III wetland mapping and subsequent regulation, Amphibian Corridor regulations, etc. The CC serves as an important advisor on these environmental issues. The Natural Element Chapter of the Town Plan takes up almost half of the plan, as it is considered a very important component of community.

The CC thanked the two TRORC representatives for their attendance and information.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. T-4920-19 Palandjian

Application is for Conditional Use approval to bury powerlines, etc. within the riparian buffer. The property is located at 1959 Cox District Road and is zoned Residential Five Acre. Last month, the application was withdrawn due to the fact that the Green Mountain Power Corporation required the owners to drill horizontally under the stream bed. The length of the drilling is 160', 80' on each side of the stream. There would be no need to do any above ground work in the riparian zone, 50' from stream edge.

However, the contractor came in today. They need to do a small dig in the riparian area to free up the cable as it is stuck on a large boulder located below ground. A photo of the site was shown. The area has been a mowed lawn for a long while. There would be no removal of native vegetation, shrubs or trees. The site would be returned to the exact same condition as pre-dig.

After discussion, the CC agreed there was no need to submit an application for the work involved.

B. Town Plan Update Continued

C. Plastic Bag Ban Continued

D. Carbon Sequestration Continued

A. Fisch

Zoning permit T-4890-19 issued to Fisch had been granted to allow construction of a home within the 100' wetland buffer area off of Gabert Road. The Town Planner informed the CC that the site required extensive blasting this week as ledge rock was found at the home site. This was stated as a point of information, no action was required. This is not unusual, as

numerous home sites in Woodstock require blasting due to the massive amounts of shallow soil and steep slopes that make up the town.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2019. The CC has take the month of August off since its inception 30 years ago.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Michael Brands, AICP

Town Planner