

# Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2023

Erving Public Library,  
2 Care Drive

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Mark Blatchley

Members in attendance: Mark Blatchley, Carie Berg, David Brule, Michele Turner

**Review of May meeting minutes:** On a motion by Mark, seconded by David the Commission VOTED Unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

**Temporary Reorganization:** Morning Star Chenven, acting Secretary for the Commission, is taking the Summer off from attending Conservation Commission meetings and hopes to return in or around September. In the interim Michele and Carie will alternate taking minutes during the meetings.

**Request for Determination of Applicability:** MassDOT submitted, dated 5/26/2023 and received by the Commission on 6/01/2023. The Meeting will be held at the July meeting where a representative from the project can attend and discuss with the Cons. Comm. During that meeting a site visit can be scheduled (if necessary) and a Determination will be made at the following Cons. Comm. Meeting in August. The commission discussed this becoming the standard practice and procedure when an RDA is received.

**Next Meeting:** The July meeting will need to be moved due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday falling on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. The members discussed moving the meeting just one day to July 5<sup>th</sup>, same place, and time, if available.

**Around Town Articles and Evening Speakers:** follow up discussion to idea to educate the public using the Around Town. Carie is planning to submit information on Ticks in the September issue. This will need to be submitted by 8/12 for publication. Topics of interest for evening speakers continue to be pollinators, trees, pesticide, and herbicide use. The commission does not have any tentative programs currently. Be on the lookout for an article submitted by Rinky Black, a friend of the Cons Comm, in the next Around Town on pollinators and pesticide use. Also, in Mark's neighborhood (Farley) there is a wonderful example of a Pollinator Garden that he suggested everyone drive by and look at.

**Review Stop Work Order at 153 North Street:** Need to schedule next site visit. Mark and David plan to attend together. Mark has done a great job communicating with the homeowner and has taken pictures of the location and work done there.

**Poplar Mountain Conservation Area:**

**Hikes** – 3 scheduled only 2 took place as Winter Tracking cancelled due to Ice Storm

**Survey** – White trail will need to change a little.

**Parking Lot Improvements** – Mark will be meeting with Highway Superintendent Glenn McCory and Town Administrator Bryan Smith this week to discuss the following 3 things:

1. Request for Removal of Stumps
2. Request to Pull out 3 Big Logs that were intended to define the space but may be causing parking hazard.
3. The possibility of use of Asphalt Grindings to create an accessible use space for a picnic table. David asked that the question of any potential Environmental Concerns of reuse of this material be asked.

**18:30**

MT left meeting. Commissioners still present: CB, DB, MB. Quorum still met.

CB taking over minutes.

**18:31**

Motion to give Mariah permission to order more boundary signs.

M: DB, 2<sup>nd</sup>: MB Unanimous vote

#### **Mosquito Spraying**

- The state did not accept our objections.
- They want to spray wherever/whenever.
- Mark will check status.
- Meeting with Senator Comerford regarding scaling back seemed well received by residents, but still seems too much.
- Seems like catch22 – Clean up efforts being done to remove PFAS contamination from water sources, yet it is in the spray?
- How is the impacting pollinators and wildlife?
- If you have to wear special equipment to spray it, what is it doing to the environment?
- MB meeting with Bryan to discuss plans.

**Asphalt cast-off chunks.** Can we get for parking lot? MB to check with Glenn.

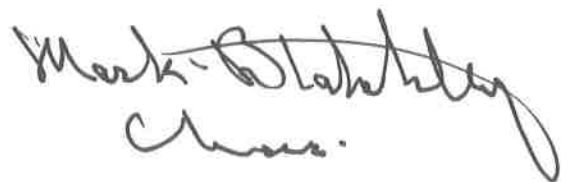
**MassDOT RDA.** Mark will inform them that it will be reviewed at the 7/5 ConComm meeting. Set site visit between 7/18 and 7/28.

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**18:42**

Motion to adjourn.

M: DB, 2<sup>nd</sup>: CB, Unanimous vote



Mark Blahut  
Chair.