



Conservation Commission  
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Jennifer Eaton, Vice Chair  
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Joan Savoy, Clerk

Jessica Consolvo, Conservation Agent

## Meeting of the Townsend Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, January 26th, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

**SELECTMEN'S CHAMBERS, 272 MAIN STREET, TOWNSEND, MA**

Or via remote ZOOM for convenience

Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technical problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required to by law. Members of the public with interest in a specific agenda item should make plans for in-person attendance.

TCAM Inc. is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

### Join Zoom Meeting

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## **1.0 Preliminaries – Votes May Be Taken:**

**1.1 - Call the meeting to order and roll call** Meeting called to order by Vice Chair JE at 4:10PM under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Townsend Wetlands Bylaw (TWB).

Roll Call: JS (Present), JG (Present), JE (Present), JL (Absent), & AL (Absent)

**1.2 - Announce the meeting is being video recorded. Is anyone else recording?** No one else is recording.

**1.3 - Chairman's Additions and/or Deletions** JE would like a motion to add 3.4 to the agenda: reviewing comments returned by the EEA regarding the CR on Campbell Farm. She would also like to add 4.3: reviewing an email from Michael Crowley (Land Use Coordinator) reminding the CC that there is an open period for submitting warrants.

*JS motions to add these items to the agenda, JG seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

**1.4 - Agent's report** JC informs the CC that there has been one septic signoff with the BOH for 63 Adams Rd and because of the proposed wetland impact they have subsequently filed with the CC. She has mailed out the Right of Entry Agreement and approval letter to the applicant at 1 Capricorn Lane, allowing him to cut down trees on conservation-owned land behind his property. An intake and site visit for the 19 Sauna Row Rd was conducted on 1/19. A compilation of maps of conservation-owned maps was begun as well as drafting and sending out access request letters asking to access private properties. Two COCs were sent out for the Brookline Rd properties and one COC was sent out for the Warren Rd property. Ongoing efforts are being undertaken for the Townsend Hill Realty Trust CR approval. The final letter of support for the Squannacook Greenways request for Mass Trails grant funding was sent out. Finally, there has been an intake and initial completeness review of the NOI for 63 Adams Rd.

**1.5 - Chair's report** JE would like to report that an impromptu site walk was conducted at Adams Dam. Some measurements were taken and there were discussions as to what future restorations the CC would like to see, assuming that the grant money is approved. The gate that has been recently installed is not locked yet but will be soon.

**1.6 – Review/Approve the meeting minutes from 1/12** JS would like to include commas between initials on the roll call to make it clearer for the reader to understand.

*JG motions to approve the 1/12 minutes, JS seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

## **2.0 Hearings and Appointments– Votes May Be Taken:**

### **3.0 Work Session – Votes May Be Taken:**

**3.1 – TWB 2022-116, 19 Sauna Row Rd Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of a new private well within a 100-foot buffer of bordering wetlands.** Patrick Burke from Places Associates is on the call representing the applicant, Robert Juusola. Robert Juusola and his wife are also on the call. A site walk was conducted on 1/19 by JC, JE, JS, and Will Murray of Places Associates. JC describes the situation to the CC. An adjacent house, during recent renovations, cut off access to a private well that was then abandoned. The 19 Sauna Row Rd property now needs a new well supply, so they are looking to install a well in their front yard. The proposed location is 75 feet from the Vinton Pond wetland. However, due to other restrictions limiting the possible area where the well can be installed, it is JC's opinion that this is the best location for the well installation. PB agrees with JC's assessment. PB mentions that they would use straw waddles as erosion control and reiterates that this

was the only possible location when trying to keep it separated from nearby septic systems. JC reminds the CC that this would be a permanent alteration inside of a wetland buffer resource but it's 75 feet away from the boundary and there are no feasible alternatives.

*JG motions to issue a negative 3 determination for TWB 2022-116, JS seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

**3.2 – Approve comments for Campbell Farm referral form to submit to the Planning Board** The CC have had a chance to review the application and they would like to submit 2 comments to the PB. That the fire pond must be functional before occupancy and to ask about the status of the stormwater management plan.

*JG motions to submit these comments to the PB, JS seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

**3.3 – Decide on preferred starting time for 2/23 meeting** Due to a ZBA public hearing that was continued to 2/23/22 at 5:30PM, the CC needs to change their meeting time so that the public hearing doesn't interfere with their meeting. The CC agree to meet at 7:30PM on 2/23/22.

**\*3.4 – Review comments returned by the EEA regarding the CR on Campbell Farm** JC screenshares so that the CC can review the additional comments/corrections that the EEA recently added. On page 4 section (8), JS would like to add a comment asking for clarification on what exactly *de minimis* commercial recreation means in this context. On page 5 section (b ii), the CC decide to leave a comment specifying that temporary/seasonal agriculture will be allowed but not permanent facilities. On page 5 section 2, the CC add a comment that states the section of property within NHESP habitat should have their vegetable management follow NHESP's best management practices. JC also wants to update the CC members listed on the CR as the current document still lists CC members who are no longer on the board. The CC approve the rest of the EEA comments/changes to the CR.

*JS motions to approve the discussed changes to the CR, JG seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

#### **4.0 Correspondence – Votes May Be Taken:**

**4.1 – Forest Cutting Plan and Notice of Intent from DCR** This document concerns trees cut along Wallace Hill Road and the landowners are Robert W. Estes & the Estate of George Morey. The map shows that the area where the trees will be cut down is across the intersection of Wallace Hill Road and Highland Street. The parcel totals 80 acres and they are harvesting approximately 10 acres of pine trees. This letter was DCR's notification to the CC that they were going to be harvesting these trees and the project has already been completed. The landowners opted into the long-term forest management plan and the CC are going to receive a portion of revenue from the harvesting to put into the WPA fund.

**4.2 – CC Letter of Support for the CR on Squannacook Meadows** This letter just restated the CC decision at the 12/8/21 meeting to support the CR on Squannacook Meadows. MC wanted to have something formal he could bring to the BOS meeting on 2/2/22.

**\*4.3 - review email from MC regarding the open period for submitting warrants** MC reminds the CC that the current warrant article period is open now until March 1<sup>st</sup>. He then provides a list of meeting times for the different boards/committees before March 1<sup>st</sup>, in case there is anything that needs to go through a committee review.

#### **5.0 Education and Conferences – Votes May Be Taken:**

**5.1 – Invasive Species Management** JS reached out to MACC to request what specific verbiage regarding invasive species management the CC could request when they issue OOCs. MACC said this information could be found in either their electronic handbook or by taking Fundamentals Unit 105. JE brings up that she received an email from Joan Wotkowicz regarding invasive species. There is a trail by Adams Dam where there is a section that is unusable because it is covered with Japanese Barberry. In the email JW mentions that the NRWA has partnered with the MRWC to accomplish riparian vegetated projects that would help manage invasive species. JW believes the Adam Dam trail might qualify. The deadline to apply was on 1/20/22 but JE will reach back out to JW to see if it's still possible to apply.

**5.2 – Fundamentals Unit 102: Overview of the Wetlands Protection Act** Matt Matos (Conservation Admin) attended this class on 1/25 and it had a lot of valuable information. MM would also like to bring up to the CC that in March the MACC will be offering a lot of fundamental classes for obtaining certificate training. JC mentions that the 3/9 meeting might have to be moved because it coincides with one of the classes. JS asks the CC to send her what classes people will take so that she can send the invoices to the accountant so that the classes can get paid.

**6.0 Items for discussion at next meeting:**

Riparian vegetated buffer project, MACC classes approval, clothing receipts, and 63 Adams NOI

**7.0 Next meeting:** Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7 pm, BOS Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This meeting will also be held via virtual Zoom remote in accordance with Covid-19 safe meeting guidelines.

**8.0 Adjournment:**

*JG motions to adjourn at 8:12PM, JS seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*