



Office of the
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Townsend
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R E C E I V E D
MAR 10 2023

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
TOWN CLERK

Chair: James Gates (2024) **Vice-Chair:** Colby Streeter (2025) **Clerk:** Joan Savoy (2025)
Anne LeCuyer (2023) Kevin Smith (2023) Linda Mack (2024) Patricia Jemiolo (2025)
Jessica Consolvo, Conservation Agent Matthew Matos, Administrative Assistant

Meeting of the Townsend Conservation Commission
MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 @ 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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88017842473?pwd=R0J1eGFVakhFWTFubFF0SzkrS0lBdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 1784 2473

Passcode: 388530

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcpCZeg57E>

1.0 Preliminaries – Votes May Be Taken: (YouTube Timestamps)

1.1 – Call the meeting to order and roll call JG calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

RC: JS (P) LM (P) JG (P) PJ (P) AL (Present via Zoom)

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 JG is adding 3.1 – Wild & Scenic Grant Application

1.4 – Chair’s report JG visited 158 Main St on 2/1 and confirmed that wetlands were flagged and more haybales were put up.

1.5 – Review/Approve the meeting minutes from 12/14/22

*JS motions to continue approval of 12/14 meeting minutes to 2/8 meeting, LM seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

2.0 Hearings and Appointments– Votes May Be Taken:

2.1 – Enforcement Order, 158 Main St, Mailed 1/17/23 (2:13-45:03)

Status update from property owner that includes a short-term plan to stop migration of sediment and a long-term plan to address clean-up & remediation.

Stan Dillis is present at the meeting representing the property owner Terry “Doc” McGee, who is also present. SD has been recently contracted to assist with the remediation process and he has already mapped the wetlands and topography on the property. With current weather conditions, he recommends that the CC focus on temporary mitigation until the weather improves and they can work on a permanent solution. JC shares her screen and shows pictures of the newly installed additional haybales. SD mentions potentially installing a detention basin, putting down trap rock, placing more haybales, and restoring the berm along the railroad. SD states that he would most likely need a couple of weeks to have written plans and to install these temporary mitigation methods. The CC asks that these additional haybales be installed ASAP. SD believes they can get them all placed 2/2 and will be onsite to ensure that they are placed properly. JC confirms the locations where the haybales will go and makes a note that there is a mapped stream channel on the property. This wouldn’t be the case if the only source of hydrology was sump pump discharge. JC shows pictures where there is a large amount of shallow groundwater and cattails at the headwaters. TM mentions there is a culvert in that area that doesn’t typically discharge water, but it has been recently. It remains his opinion that the vast majority of water is coming from a 12 inch pipe with water coming from his neighbor’s property. On the advice of the Building Department, TM capped the pipe, since it is on his property, but it only worked in slowing down the water for a couple of weeks. JC reminds everyone that, since this is a mapped stream, they can’t completely terminate the flow of water and the source of hydrology must be allowed to reach the wetlands beyond the Rail Trail. A compromise is discussed where a detention basin can be put in to stop the flow of water onto the Rail Trail, while an outflow pipe is also installed to keep water flowing under the Rail Trail. SD mentions he might be able to have plans written by the 2/8 meeting, but at the very least he will have them done by the 2/22 meeting. JS asks for a hard deadline for the work to be completed, but SD mentions that the current weather conditions make it difficult to guarantee when work can be done. The CC recommends continuing to remove silt by hand from the culvert under the Rail Trail. SD agrees that the silt should be continuously removed but mentions that machinery would be more effective and can be done without harming the wetlands. They agree that some areas can be managed by machines while others will have to be by hand. JC recommends that before more haybales are installed, the silt should be removed by hand from around the culvert. Then something should be placed in that area, such as rebar with depth markings, that will show how silt is getting around the haybales.

This will allow the CC to determine the effectiveness of the haybales as a temporary mitigation method. JC also reminds everyone that this whole area is in priority species habitat and the property behind the Rail Trail is owned by the state (Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife). There is a long discussion as to how much of the silt should be removed by the 2/8 CC meeting. TM mentions he has also contacted a contractor and that they would be able to do the work once SD and the CC agree on a plan. SD plans to notify NHESP, since the area of work is within priority habitat, once they are in the process of submitting the NOI for the long-term remediation work. However, considering the limited timeline for the mitigation work, NHESP would most likely not be able to provide comments before further damage is done to the wetlands. The CC would like to have several action items completed before the 2/8 meeting. They are as follows:

1. Placement of additional armored haybales at P.E.'s professional discretion but likely: extended at bottom of swale onsite; halfway up swale onsite by 2/2. More haybales placed where needed following cleanout of sediment in stream channel.
2. Hand removal of sediment in stream: all areas upstream of culvert; 4-6' downstream of culvert; inside culvert where possible; by hand, & placing sediment outside of stream buffers: by 2/8
3. Placement of sediment level indicators/rebar with depth monitoring marks after sediment cleanup (at least 2 on upstream side of culvert, 2 on downstream side of culvert) by 2/8
4. Timeline for remaining sediment removal from downstream resource areas while wetland vegetation & species habitat is dormant
5. Present progress report at 2/8 meeting

*JG makes a motion to request that these items are completed by the 2/8 meeting, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

3.0 Work Session – Votes May Be Taken:

***3.1 – Wild & Scenic Grant Application (45:03-54:10)**

JS has filled out an application to apply for a grant from the Nashua Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council. She is asking for \$2,262.98 for a Non-Native Invasive Plant Training at Adams Dam. This money would pay for the training provided by Land Stewardship, Inc and tools needed for invasive plant removal. The submittal deadline is 2/1 but they are allowing the CC to submit the application a day late. Employees from the Land Use, Highway, and Cemetery and Parks Departments have all been invited as well as any volunteers who would like to attend. Members of Land Stewardship would come to assess the Japanese Barberry at the Jefts Street parking lot and the nearby area where the Squannacook River turns. After the assessment there will be a 3-4 hour training in May where they will teach the most effective methods to remove invasive plants and to keep them from coming back. The CC would then write a final report outlining their plans to remove the Japanese Barberry at Adams Dam as well as provide timelines for when the work will be completed. JS is hopeful that this will lead to a comprehensive plan to eliminate invasive plants in Townsend. The other members of the CC thank JS for her hard work on this project.

*LM makes a motion to submit this grant request to the NRWSSC, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

4.0 Correspondence – Votes May Be Taken:

5.0 Education and Conferences – Votes May Be Taken:

6.0 Items for discussion at next meeting:

12/14 meeting minutes, 158 Main Street Enforcement Order

7.0 Next meeting: Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 at 7:00 pm, BOS Chambers, 2nd floor. This meeting will also be held via virtual Zoom remote in accordance with Covid-19 safe meeting guidelines.

8.0 Adjournment:

*LM motions to adjourn at 7:55PM, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously*