



Conservation Commission
Town of Townsend
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TOWN OF TOWNSEND
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Meeting of the Townsend Conservation Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, February 9th, 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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84227759986?pwd=eXhIRmVaR0dPV2FpNHhjL3NuS21SUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 2775 9986

Passcode: 796384

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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 7:02PM under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Townsend Wetlands Bylaw (TWB).

Roll Call: JG (Present), JS (Present), JL (Present via Zoom), AL (Present via Zoom), JE (Present)

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 3.7 to the agenda: vote to approve latest Campbell Farms CR comments from EEA. She would also like to add 3.8: discuss benefits of shared files for meeting materials. In correspondence she would like to add 4.1: discuss email regarding open space plan CC representative sent from Michael Crowley (Land Use Coordinator).

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

1.4 – Chair's report JE would like to report that the BOS voted to approve both the Squannacook Meadows CR and the updated 2022 CC fee schedule.

1.5 - Review/Approve the meeting minutes from 1/26/22 The CC have all had a chance to review the 1/26 minutes and they approve.

*JS motions to approve 1/26/22 minutes, JG seconded
JS (Y), JG (Y), JL (A), AL (Y), JE(Y) – The motion passes*

1.6 - Agent's report JC informs the CC that the referral for Campbell Farms was returned to the PB. There was 1 septic signoff for 222 Main St and work continues on revising the Wetland Bylaws/Regulations. An RDA was issued for 19 Sauna Row Rd and sent out on 2/2. There have been ongoing efforts to compile maps for conservation owned land and several access request letters have been sent out to property owners. JC and Matt Matos (CC Admin) have made 3 site visits to some of the small CC owned parcels. On 1/27 the Campbell Farms CR was sent back to the EEA with CC comments. Materials for the 63 Adams Rd NOI were received, a site visit was conducted on 2/2, and the legal ad was published in the Groton Herald on 2/4. Draft materials were also received for an RDA at 45 Warren Rd. 2 complaints have been submitted by Townsend residents regarding wetland compliance issues and potential dumping at 1 Warner Rd and 61 Edwards Rd. Site visits were conducted on 1/31 but because of the snow there were no visible signs of illicit activity. Work has also started on reviewing and compiling a list of open OOCs that do not currently have a COC on file.

2.0 Hearings and Appointments– Votes May Be Taken:

2.1 – 7:10PM – Notice of Intent, DEP #308-XXXX, TWB 2022-117

Applicant: Katherine Thompson

Location: 63 Adams Road

Project/Status: The applicant would like to replace a failing sewage system and related grading within a 100 foot buffer of a vegetated wetlands and intermittent streams.

JC informs the CC that this public hearing has yet to receive a DEP #. Without a DEP # the public hearing cannot be closed and so therefore must be continued to the next meeting. The CC agree to discuss the application now so that when the DEP # is received they can quickly come to a decision. Steve Sears from David E. Ross Associates is on the zoom call representing Katherine Thompson. JS was present at the site visit on 2/2 and she believes this project should be approved. She also mentions that the CC can

hold an emergency meeting as soon as the DEP number comes in to speed up the process. JS proceeds to read the legal notice and the construction plans are then screenshared by JC so that the CC can review the project. SS explains that the house currently has a failing septic system about 25-30 ft away from a wetland. He plans to put the new septic system in an area that is as far away from the wetland and the 2 intermittent streams as possible. He also mentions that there will be no vegetation removal and that the BOH signed off on the project on 1/24. JC screenshares the abutter mail receipts she has received so that the CC can confirm everything is in order. The CC all agree that this project should be approved, and they agree to hold an emergency meeting when a DEP # is received, so that they can close the hearing ASAP.

*JG motions to continue pending DEP #, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

3.0 Work Session – Votes May Be Taken:

3.1 – NRWA Riparian Buffer project proposal JS has heard word from the NRWA that they will be earmarking 2 projects this year to repair riparian buffer zones. They are aware of the concern the CC has over the invasive species near Adams Dam, but unfortunately, the area doesn't meet their size requirements. There is however an area that JS knows about out in west Townsend, near Mr. Craven's solar farm, that has a large swathe of invasives that should fit the NRWA's criteria. JS plans to drive out there before the next meeting to look at the site and will continue to be in touch with Joan W and Al Futterman regarding the next steps.

3.2 – Mandatory Referral Notice from ZBA regarding 241 Main St JE informs the CC that this application concerns converting a building into mixed-use by adding apartments to the 2nd and 3rd floor of the preexisting non-conforming commercial structure. JC believes this project is out of the CC's jurisdiction because it is over 700 ft away from any wetlands. The CC agree and JS is pleased that housing is being built in our commercial zones. JG notices an error in the area conversions but assumes it is most likely just a typo. The CC decides to simply leave a comment saying non jurisdictional.

*AL motions to return comments to the ZBA, JG seconded
JS (Y), JL(A), AL (Y), JG (Y), JE (Y) – The motion passes*

3.3 – Mandatory Referral Notice from ZBA regarding 478 Main St JE reminds the CC that they have returned comments on this project previously. The applicant is now attempting to obtain a special permit to operate a commercial dog kennel, where previously their goal was to operate a dog grooming business. The CC agree that this is also non jurisdictional and will leave that as their lone comment to return to the ZBA.

*JG motions to return comments to the ZBA, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

3.4 – MACC classes invoice approval

*AL motions to approve \$165 for MACC classes for MM, JG seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

*AL motions to approve \$440 for MACC classes for JC & MM, JG seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

*JG motions to approve \$55 for MACC classes for JE, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

3.5 – Agent/Admin clothing receipts approval The annual CC clothing allowance of \$600 was used to purchase boots for MM & JE as well as reflective safety equipment. The 2 invoices were \$132.21 & \$139.99 for a total of \$272.20. JL didn't know this allowance was part of the budget and asks where he could find out more information about it. JE & JG tell him he could contact the town accountant or review past budgets.

*JG motions to approve \$272.20 for clothing for MM & JC, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

3.6 – Review active & recently expired OOCs and discuss plan to contact applicants JE informs the CC of the ongoing efforts to compile a list of active OOCs that still need to be issued COCs. Over the last 3 years there are approximately 20 active OOCs and 3 expired OOCs.

***3.7 – Vote to approve latest Campbell Farms CR comments from EEA** JC screenshares a copy of the CR so that the CC can review the latest comments. The EEA have answered the CC's questions that they submitted after their last meeting as well as adding the language the CC requested. They also had some minor changes of their own but nothing that the CC did not agree with. Now that the finalized document has been approved by the EEA and the CC, the next step is to gather signatures.

*JS motions to approve the EEA's comments, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

***3.8 - Discuss benefits of shared files for meeting materials** JG had the suggestion that, instead of emailing out each individual document for the upcoming meeting, there should be a shared file location instead. The rest of the CC agree that this is a great idea, and they decide to use google drive for the shared location. MM agrees to send out the invites and will be able to give instructions if anyone is not able to figure out how to access the files.

4.0 Correspondence – Votes May Be Taken:

4.1 - Discuss email regarding open space plan CC representative sent from Michael Crowley (Land Use Coordinator) MC is on the call and he informs the CC that work is being done on the new open space & recreation plan. The old plan has been expired for 2 years and this has closed off a lot of areas of potential funding for the town. The open space committee is looking for people to serve as the committee head from each department and they are looking for town citizens to serve on the subcommittees as well. MC is asking the CC who they would like to have serve as their representative. They don't have to serve on the CC, but they do have to live in town. MC would like to have the committees assembled by March if possible. The committee meetings would be once a month and work will hopefully be finished by December.

5.0 Education and Conferences – Votes May Be Taken:

5.1 – Earth Day celebration discussion JS reminds the CC that in the past the CC would have a presence at the Earth Day celebration in town. It is a good opportunity for public outreach and for a nominal fee the CC could set up a table. JS mentions that they can hand out invasive species literature and stormwater documents.

5.2 – Upcoming MACC conference of fundamentals & discuss potential meeting time change for 3/9 meeting The CC determine that only JC has a class scheduled during the 3/9 meeting, so they don't need to reschedule. JC agrees to write up her agent's report and give it to the CC to read at the meeting. JS points out that most of the CC should be MACC certified after this round of classes.

6.0 Items for discussion at next meeting:

63 Adams Road NOI, riparian buffer project, & possible announcement of CC open space representative

7.0 Next meeting: *Thursday, February 24th, 2022 at 7:15 pm*, BOS Chambers, 2nd floor. This meeting will also be held via virtual Zoom remote in accordance with Covid-19 safe meeting guidelines. **Discuss potentially moving meetings back to Zoom remote only.** The CC agree to continue meeting in person.

8.0 Adjournment:

*JG motions to adjourn at 8:09PM, JL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*