



Conservation Commission
Town of Townsend
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TOWN OF TOWNSEND
TOWN CLERK

James LeCuyer (2022)	Anne LeCuyer (2023)	James Gates (2024), Chairman
Colby Streeter, Vice-Chairman (2025)	Linda Mack (2025)	Joan Savoy, Clerk (2022)
Jessica Consolvo, Conservation Agent		Matthew Matos, Administrative Assistant
	Michael Crowley, Land Use Coordinator	

Meeting of the Townsend Conservation Commission MINUTES

Wednesday, June 8th, 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/86233313162?pwd=YUI0eis3cnNOMURNQkVSOFlhQeGRzd09>

Meeting ID: 862 3331 3162

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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 under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Townsend Wetland Bylaw (TWB).

Roll Call: AL (P) JL (P) JG (P) JS (P) LM (P) CS (Arrives at ~7:17PM)

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 The review of the 5/25 minutes and 3.3 are being removed and continued to another meeting. 5.1 – Invasive species discussion – is being added to Education and Conferences.

1.4 – Chair’s report None

1.5 – Review/Approve the meeting minutes from 5/11/22 & 5/25/22

*JS motions to approve the 5/11 minutes, AL seconded
LM (A) JS (Y) JL (Y) AL (Y) JG (Y) CS (Absent). The motion passes.*

1.6 – Agent’s report (2:10-5:20)

1. Building Permit interdepartmental signatures
22 Worcester Road (e-mail only)
1. Referrals completed
none
1. BOH interdepartmental signatures
none
1. OOCs issued in the past without COCs – 13 inquiries made to date
2. RDA – 46 Emery Road tree cutting for safety concerns – put on hold 3/7/22
3. Request for COC – 1 Bailey Rd 308-639 pending fee review
4. Request for COC – 5 Bailey Rd 308-638 pending fee review
5. Request for COC – 7 Bailey Rd 308-637 pending fee review
6. RDA – 57 Tyler Road – Determination mailed out 6/1
7. Ecological NOI – Squannacook Wildlife Management Area habitat restoration intake, sent referrals to Town boards, sent completeness comments to applicant – received request for Sept. continuance
8. RDA – 1 Brown Road intake & site visit
9. Creation of template for Until project notifications within Town limits
10. RDA – 12 South Street intake

AL addresses the CC to bring up the fact that recently the BOS has not listened to the appointment suggestions of the CC. She doesn’t believe that the CC’s recommendations have any impact on the BOS’s decisions.

2.0 Hearings and Appointments– Votes May Be Taken:

2.1 – 7:10PM – Notice of Intent, DEP #308-XXXX, TWB 2022-128 (5:30-7:00)

Applicant: Massachusetts Division of Fish & Wildlife

Location: Portions of Squannacook River Wildlife Management Area along Shirley Rd

Project/Status: The applicant’s proposal would help to restore rare natural plant communities in the Squannacook WMA. This restoration work is proposed within resource areas and their associated buffers.

This hearing cannot be opened because there is still no DEP # and the applicant reached out to request a continuance until 9/28/22.

*AL motions to continue 2.1 until 9/28/22, JS seconded
The motion passes unanimously. CS is absent.*

3.0 Work Session – Votes May Be Taken:

3.1 – TWB 2022-129, 1 Brown Road Request for Determination of Applicability for a patio expansion, installation of a safety fence, and potential drainage improvements all within 100 feet of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland (7:07-14:40)

Linda Mack recuses herself, because of her status as an abutter, and exits the room. The applicant Brad Hawn is present at the meeting and was present, alongside the CC, at the site visit on 6/3/22. JS makes a note that there are different versions of the plans but is OK with the current plans. BH briefly describes the project and JL & AL note that this is a pre-existing feature, so there will be no further impacts to the wetlands. JS & JG recommend using semi permeable pavement, but there is no requirement to. JC points out that it is outside the 50 foot buffer and so is exempt from the WPA. The site still falls under jurisdiction of the TWB, but JC approves of the efforts being undertaken to limit impact to the wetlands.

*AL motions to issue a negative-3 determination, JL seconded
The motion passes unanimously. Linda Mack recuses herself & CS is absent*

3.2 – TWB 2022-130, 12 South Street Request for Determination of Applicability for the replacement and expansion of a water line within the 200 foot Riverfront Area (16:54-25:00)

Linda Mack returns to the room and CS arrives at the start of the work session, ~7:17PM. Oxana Fartushnaya is on the zoom call representing the applicant Deluxe Corporation. OF shares the site plans on her screen and describes the project to the CC. JL approves of the plans since it is an upgrade to what is already there. JC points out that there are erosion control barriers on the plan that should protect the wetlands from any potential runoff. JS noticed turtle activity on the 6/6/22 site walk, and she asks that the workers be as careful as possible to not injure any turtles. The site is not inside rare habitat recognized by the state, so these turtles do not fall under CC jurisdiction, it is simply a personal request from JS.

*CS motions to issue a negative-3 determination, JG seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

~~3.3 – Request for COCs for 1, 5, & 7 Bailey Road: DEP #308-639, #308-638, and #308-637 (Continued from 5/25)~~

3.4 – Mandatory Referral Notice from PB regarding 32 Main Street (26:36-40:40)

The proposed project is for food truck setup stations including a bath house, parking spots, and picnic tables. This project has been in front of the CC before, but they have recently updated their plans, so JC shares her screen in order to show and describe the new plans to the CC. JC and the CC are unsure if the site is in their jurisdiction because it is not clear how far away the wetlands and the Squannacook River are. If the site is in a wetland buffer the applicant would have to come before the CC. The CC decide to provide no comment since their jurisdiction has not been determined. There is also a brief discussion as to how they can improve the TWB to be clearer and more concise.

*JL motions to provide no comment to the Planning Board, AL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*

4.0 Correspondence – Votes May Be Taken:

4.1 – Email from EPA regarding MS4 stormwater continuance (41:28-43:30)

JG reads the letter aloud to the CC. The EPA informs the CC that the current MS4 Permit expires July 1, 2022, but the MS4 Permit will be administratively continued, so no action is required at this time. The CC have no additional comments.

4.2 – Email from town resident with concerns that wetlands are being illegally filled at 127 Main St (43:35-47:47) A Townsend resident informed the CC of potential wetland violations occurring at 127 Main St. JC informs the CC that she has been aware of the site for a couple of months and as of yet has seen nothing that concerns her. There is a large pile of dirt, but it is a decent distance away from any wetlands and there has been no change in the pile during the months that JC has been aware of it. JC agrees to reach back out to the resident and inform them that she is aware of the situation.

4.3 – Email from town resident with concerns over habitat disturbance on Emery Rd and Adams land (47:52-56:33) Another Townsend resident reached out to the CC regarding several concerns they had about environmental disturbance on Emery Rd and Adams land. JC unfortunately is not able to do much about the ATVs since the land is owned by the state, but Fish & Wildlife have been notified. In regard to the power lines, Unitil is exempt from filing with the CC when their work helps to maintain utilities, this includes the removal of trees. However, MC and JC have reached out to Unitil asking them to begin submitting a notification form when they are going to do work so that the Conservation office can properly address concerns of residents. JC agrees to reach out to the resident and inform them of the situation.

4.4 – Email from Land Use Coordinator regarding Open Space & Recreation Survey (56:34-59:16) CS informs the CC that the Open Space Committee has created a survey asking Townsend residents what they want to see the town's recreation land used for. This will help the OSC create the newest Open Space & Recreation Plan. The OSRP helps to guide the vision of the town for years to come. The survey is posted on the Land Use and Conservation Committee pages of the town website.

5.0 Education and Conferences – Votes May Be Taken

5.1 – Invasive species discussion (59:19-1:02:21) JS has recently become aware of an invasive species in Townsend called black swallow wort. MM shares his screen with the CC so that they can see what it looks like, and they briefly read some information about the plant. JS mentions she plans to go to the police station, where there is currently an infestation, and help them remove the black swallow wort from their flower garden. JS and MM also plan to create an informational slide on black swallow wort like what has been done recently on other invasive species.

6.0 Items for discussion at next meeting:

5/25 meeting minutes

7.0 Next meeting: Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022 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:

*AL motions to adjourn at 8:08PM, JL seconded
The motion passes unanimously*