

Conservation Commission Meeting  
Sharon Community Center  
December 5, 2019

Peg Arguimbau, Chair, Meredith Avery, Stephen Cremer and Michael Donatelle were the members present. Not Present: Alan Westman, Jon Wasserman and Keevin Geller. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

A sign-in sheet is on file in the office listing other attendees of the meeting.  
Meeting started at 7:45pm

**7:45 PM – Administrative Updates**

**Motion:** For the Commission to go into executive session to discuss office administration and personnel. Upon completion of discussion, the Commission will go back into public session.

Cremer, Avery  
Donatelle – Aye  
Arguimbau – Aye  
Avery – Aye

The Commission exited executive session at 8:15 pm.

**8:15 PM – Request for Determination: 6 Gay Road**

*To extend the fence line and to level and fill in with dirt as needed; loam and seed the area*

Meister presented a brief background on the proposed project: The homeowner requested to put a fence up and asked Meister for his advice. A land survey was performed noting where the property line for the property was and an area was marked noting where the fence would be installed. Meister reviewed the site and performed some measurements. The limit of work is approximately 50 feet from the wetlands.

The applicant showed Commission members a plot plan of his property and noted where he would like to install the fence. There is an existing fence which he will be using and expanding upon. He will be using the same type of fencing materials currently being used. There are no trees in the area. Several older and dead trees have been previously removed. No additional trees will be removed. Clean soil has been brought in and the area where the fence will be installed will be leveled off. The existing fence will be moved out and will be reused. The applicant will be working on the project in steps.

Arguimbau asked the applicant to phone the Commission when his project is completed so that it can be closed out. She asked if anyone had any questions.

Arguimbau said a Negative Determination would be issued with the condition that the project move forward as indicated (existing fence reused, installed where marked, and soil used to level off the area) and that the office be contacted upon completion.

**Motion** to issue with Negative Determination with conditions.

Donatelle, Cremer 4-0-0

**Motion** to close hearing

Cremer, Donatelle 4-0-0

**Signed Certificate of Compliance:** 364 Mountain Street, DEP280-0611

**Signed Certificate of Compliance:** 5 Glen Hill Road, DEP 280-100

**Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2019**

**Move** to accept minutes as presented  
Donatelle, Arguimbau 4-0-0

**Lake Update:** The lake remains low. This is fine for the winter in case of storms.

**Next meeting:** December 19<sup>th</sup> Shelmerdine will come in to discuss the cranberry bogs.

A student from UMASS was observing tonight's meeting. He is currently taking a class and had some questions for the Commission.

1) What is an important environmental issue going on in town?

- Discussion about synthetic turf field at high school
- Solar panels being put in for energy purposes
- Just saved over 300 acres of land to be preserved (Rattlesnake Hill)
- Working on Cranberry bogs; reclaim and functioning
- Cedar Swamp and storage capacity; retention capacity
- Clean drinking water

2.) What is toughest obstacle the Commission faces in preserving wetlands?

- Wetlands are the easy part. Also need to educate new folks who are moving into town.
- There is a good process in place for those who wish to develop. Much work was put in to develop this process and it is working well.
- There is a lot of pressure as people move out and new people move in. New residents wish to put additions on to their homes, and many of the lots are non-conforming. Some Commission and Board members find it difficult to say no, but there are regulations in place to protect both the water supply and the lake. This will be challenging as we move forward.
- In the Heights area of town, many homeowners wish to add a second floor. This district is located over the well fields. For public health and safety reasons, both Meister and the building inspector have not supported. Meister hopes this will continue and that Boards will do the right thing in not granting requests for a second floor addition to homes in the Heights area.

3.) What environmental aspects is the Commission focusing the most on at this time?

- The Commission is always focusing and looking at the Lake.
- Cedar Swamp is another area the Commission is always looking at.
- Cranberry Bogs have been looked at the past several years and it is the hope of the Commission that they will eventually be repaired and put back into working order.

**Move** to adjourn  
Cremer, Avery 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8.45pm