

Meeting Minutes: 4/29/24

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm

Present: Dan Harris, Cosmo LaViola, and April LeSage

Public: Mark Stinson, Blue Sky, Todd Krutiak, Kate Conlin

Highway Department bundled Order of Conditions-

- Mark described the scope of the bundle, unpaved roads, roadside ditches, culverts, and restoration.
- Removing debris from a storm, maintenance of catch basins, recent blockages due to storms.
- Work included is up to the commission and highway department working together, the commission can ask to be notified ahead of time.
- The Commission can request erosion controls and provisions of resource areas.
- Stream crossings are not included in the bundled order of conditions, they have to be a separate NOI.
- Communication needs to be kept open between highway department and commission, Mark and Dan both stated that appropriate paperwork needs to be filed.
- Culverts should be inspected by the conservation commission before new paving starts.
- Enforcement actions can be taken against the town if they are not in compliance
- Highway Department vs DPW includes water and sewer
- No work can be done in Natural Heritage without notifying them, needs to be exempt from rare species habitat
- Steps for issuing a bundled order of conditions-
 - Follow procedure of notice of intent
 - two copies to town, one to DEP
 - newspaper notification, legal notification-post 2 weeks ahead of time
 - have hearing, vote as a commission
 - Order of conditions is good for 5 years, and can be extended in 3 year increments.
- Bush Road piles of fill have Japanese Knotweed, advised by the conservation commission not to move the piles
- Conservation commission will supply the highway dept superintendent with a map outlining the resource areas in Savoy
- The town road boss expressed concern about the ability for the DPW crew to meet their demands and was hesitant to abide by legal regulations regarding the WPA. He was refusing to file the necessary paperwork for future projects on his own in order to follow legal procedures as defined by Mass. DEP. These concerns stemmed primarily from being burdened with the paperwork and review process it can require and the associated project delays that it could create.
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RiverFront Planting Blue Sky

- Discussed various tree species and shrubs that are climate forward for the riverfront project

- Diversify the species that will be planted
- Timing will depend on when the nursery will send the plants, shooting for spring installation
- Blue suggests that perennials will be a good addition in phase 2
- Submersible pump will be used to water the plants using the river, supplied by Dan Harris

Community Grant

- Not applicable for our town

Westfield Wild and Scenic

- No funding available

Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts-

- Kate Colin presented to the board
- 21 towns will opt to join in to the partnership
- Goal is to conserve forest while keeping private ownership, increase economic development and expand forest products, outdoor recreation, and tourism based businesses. Another goal is to improve the fiscal stability of municipalities and engage public education and outreach.
- Pilot in Lieu of taxes, advocate for reform
- Selectboard will nominate a member of the town to be on the board for the Woodland Partnership.
- Discussion about the different services that are offered by the partnership.

Greenagers

- Letter of recommendation for Greenagers to work in the Savoy State Forest, they have a Woodlands Partnership grant. Will check with state to get more information about the project

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm