

**Dorset Zoning Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting
Monday April 19, 2021**

Members Present: John LaVecchia, Kevin O'Toole, Tuck Rawls, David Wilson, Ruth Stewart, Patrick McGuire, Martha Merwin, Ed Tanenhaus.

Others Present: Hilary Solomon (Poultney Mettawee Conservation District), Tyler Yandow, Rob Gaiotti, Kevin Roe, Kit Wallace.

John LaVecchia brought the meeting to order at 7:08pm

Conditional Use Application by Trout Unlimited and PMCD for alterations/removal of material in a Flood Hazard Zone:

Hilary Solomon was at the meeting to present the applications to the ZBA. She noted that in 2017 Trout Unlimited and the US Forest Service had embarked on a fish passage and stream restoration effort for the upper reaches of the Mettawee River in Dorset. Multiple sites along the river were identified as barriers to fish passage and impacted the sediment load in the stream. The next two projects being worked on are dams at 35 Kirby Hollow Road and the dam near the Water Wheel at 2173 Upper Hollow Road. The current plan is for full removal of the two small dams near 35 Kirby Hollow and a partial removal/ restoration of the dam area near the Water Wheel. She noted that the dams at Kirby Hollow were about 200' downstream of the intersection of Dorset Hollow and Kirby Hollow.

Kevin Roe noted that he was an abutter and that he had been contacted in the past with regard to the 35 Kirby Hollow dams, but hadn't heard the project was moving forward. H. Solomon noted that as an abutter she will schedule a time to meet with him soon to give an explanation of project scope and ask for him to sign off on the project. K. Roe stated that he supported the project to improve fish passage, but wondered why a full removal of the dams was necessary as they aren't much higher than the regular surface elevation of the river. Discussion ensued with regard to the dam locations, other permits needed, and the project timeline. H. Solomon also presented the plans for work at the dam near 2173 Upper Hollow Road. Kit Wallace who is the property owner at 2173 Upper Hollow stated that she supported the project. Discussion ensued about project details and timing.

John LaVecchia inquired about the process for the Town permit. Rob Gaiotti noted that it was the same as previous stream projects, it is a conditional use in the special flood hazard area, which required ZBA approval and PC site plan review. In this case the applicant was going to the ZBA first to get approval that would be final after the PC approved the site plan. Kevin O'Toole noted that he didn't think the Town permit being approved would preclude K. Roe from making an arrangement with the applicant prior to the project actually moving forward. Ruth Stewart agreed and noted that she supported the project. **Ruth Stewart moved and Martha Merwin seconded to approve the conditional use application for the dam removals as presented, with the permit being final upon PC site plan approval, motion passed 8-0.**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting stood adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager