

MINUTES OF AUGUST 28th, 2019 MEETING

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on August 28th, 2019 in the conference room at the Longmeadow Police Station.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Al Laakso, Andrea Chasen, John Bresnahan, James Ryan, Christopher Nolan. **Absent:** David Dumais, Stephen Gazillo.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Prickett and James Rivers from DPC Engineering, Town Engineer Andrew Krar.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair Al Laakso made a motion to accept the minutes of August 14th, 2019 as amended to reflect a minor correction in the minutes review vote and James Ryan seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0 with one abstention (Chris Nolan), minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer absent, no report presented.

The Commission welcomes back Christopher Nolan as Commissioner.

NOI – MORNINGSIDE DRIVE CULVERT REPLACEMENT: Mr. Prickett and Mr. Rivers provided the following details:

1. The project's scope mirrors work performed on Crestview Circle many years ago.
2. The undersized 24-inch wide/160-foot long corrugated metal culvert on Morningside Drive at Mill Brook crossing is severely deformed and is to be replaced with a larger 60-inch high density plastic pipe thru means of open-cut construction; the larger width is to eliminate the ponding that occurs at the beginning of the culvert, prevent erosion at the end of the culvert (the larger width reduces the water's velocity), stabilize the steep slopes, prevent failure of roadway and utilities nearby.
3. The total area to be impacted in the bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) is approximately 3,925 sq ft. per an updated page #3 provided at the hearing.
4. A temporary gas and water loop as well as bypass pumping for sewer with diesel backup will be provided, thus causing road closures. The sewer pipe is to be reconstructed.
5. The project is in its bidding phase, the intent is for construction to be completed before the winter; otherwise it will be postponed until the spring.

Chair Al Laakso pointed out that the methodology for delineating a wetland was not provided in the application and requested that the applicant submit both the delineation sheet, a write-up indicating why no alternative analysis is being presented and what are the mitigation alternatives due to the close proximity of the BVW. Also, MassDEP was currently reviewing the case and, therefore, a DEP file number had not been assigned at the time of the hearing by the agency. In addition, Commissioner Nolan raised concerns over the lack of information on an invasive species management plan considering that the BVW will be disturbed and requested that the applicant look into this matter as well.

All commissioners will visit the site at their own discretion and the public hearing is to continue on September 11th, at which time the applicant is to address all the concerns raised. Public hearing closed at 7:50pm.

Documents presented: complete NOI application and drawing numbers G-1/C-1/C-2/C-3/CD-1/CD-2/CD-3 dated August 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. The Department of Conservation and Recreation inspection report of the Gasek Farm conservation restriction was received. Commissioner Bresnahan volunteered to generate a proposal that addresses the report's comments.
2. The 5-year Order of Conditions for the town's leaf recycling will expire this October and DPW has submitted an extension request.
3. The Japanese Knotweed invasion continues to raise concerns. The Commission will look into the applicability of applying for CPC grants to implement a management plan as well as informing the Select Board to raise awareness on the matter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano
Secretary