

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 MEETING

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM on September 12, 2007, in the conference room of the Longmeadow Police Station.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Albert Laakso, Scott Foster, Stephen Gazillo, Peter Bouvier Jim Simon and Karen Chadwell. Absent: John Bresnahan. In the absence of John Bresnahan, Albert Laakso chaired the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: The minutes of August 22, 2007, were accepted as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary account, \$5114.79; Maintenance account, \$500.00; Misc. account, \$456.01. Treasurer's report was accepted.

NOI – DPW – Richard Haraty of the DPW was present concerning the proposal of leaf spreading by the DPW. Leaf spreading would be over 100 acres of farmland. The leaves will be tilled into the soil to enhance land, which is used for agricultural purposes. As a file number and comments from the DEP have not yet been received, the Conservation Commission could not vote or issue an Order of Conditions. Al Laakso suggested the OOC be approved for 5 years instead of 3 years. The hearing will be continued to the next meeting.

NOI – FANNIE STEBBINS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Chris Polatin, licensed applicator from Polatin Ecological Services, was present re: the proposal to control 9 acres of Japanese Knotweed in the Longmeadow Flats (Central region west of Pondsides Road and along the CT. River). Wetland approved herbicides would be used such as Rodeo & Habitat. This will be a continuous project for the next 2 or 3 years. Grant money has been received for some of the project. No vote could be taken as no file number or comments from the DEP were received. The hearing will continue to the next meeting.

Scott Foster, Commissioner, suggested we send a letter to the Select Board asking for funds to use toward weed control on CC land. Suggestion was tabled at this time.

JOEL RAHN – SEVERN ST. – Mr. Rahn came before the CC asking permission to do vista pruning (cut vegetation and tops of trees) on land that was formerly used as a bird sanctuary without a NOI or RDA. The CC determined that vista pruning would be exempt from an RDA. Mr. Rahn had a copy of a deed that stated that when Mrs. White passed away, the land would cease being a sanctuary. Mr. Rahn used professional companies to mow and prune the land every 4 or 5 years. He felt he had the right to continue pruning. The CC interpreted the deed as Mr. Rahn having no right to do any pruning. It was decided to not take a vote on the request until a formal plan was submitted identifying the number of tree tops/time of year and that project was 50' away from the river.

OTHER BUSINESS: Al Laakso made site visits on foreclosed lands (Town Manager proposed the CC vote on accepting the land, if interested). A motion was made and passed to accept the 4 parcels of land proposed by the Town Manager.

The CC decided to notify Park & Recreation that the CC land on Anthony road should be known as "Riverfront Conservation Area". Al Laakso will contact Bari Thomas.

It was noted that autos were driving down the conservation area; Al Laakso will talk with Mike Wrabel of the DPW about fencing off the area.

Peter Bouvier, Commissioner, made site visits to Avondale Road and Emerson Manor re: severe erosion of the properties.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Esther M. Moomjian, Secretary

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, in the conference room at the Longmeadow Police Station, Williams Street.