

## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2007 MEETING**

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:02 PM on October 24, 2007, in the conference room of the Longmeadow Police Station.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Bresnahan, Albert Laakso, Stephen Gazillo, Jim Simon, Karen Chadwell, Peter Bouvier and Scott Foster.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joel Rahn

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:** The minutes of October 10, 2007, were accepted as amended.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary account, \$4380.46; Maintenance account, \$500.00; Misc. account, \$456.01. Treasurer's report was accepted.

**NOI-205-283 DPW – Leaf Program** – Although a file # from the DEP has been received, the Commission cannot issue the Order of Conditions until it hears from the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Cont'd.

**Beavers** - The CC signed an Emergency Certification Form regarding the beaver dam that the beavers have created in Longmeadow Brook about 100 feet west of Pondsideroad. The DPW will breach the dam using manual labor and remove debris to allow the normal flow of Longmeadow Brook to the Connecticut River. It is noted that the Board of Health is also concerned and will also issue an Emergency Certification Form.

**VISTA PRUNING – JOEL RAHN** – Mr. Rahn requested permission to Vista prune property on farmland on Severn Road near the riverfront. He presented pictures showing tops of trees to be pruned. According to Town Council the deed that Mr. Rahn had presented at the previous meeting does not entitle Mr. Rahn to cut down trees at the riverfront. However, according to the DEP, Vista pruning is an exempt activity. "Vista pruning – the selective thinning of tree branches or understory shrubs to create a "window" to improve visibility – as long as it occurs more than 50 feet from the mean annual high-water line within a riverfront area or from a bordering vegetated wetland, whichever is farther."

A motion was made to allow Mr. Rahn to Vista prune as a minor activity as in the DEP regulations. Motion passed; 4 for, 3 against. For – John Bresnahan, Al Laakso, Karen Chadwell, Peter Bouvier; Against – Scott Foster, Stephen Gazillo, Jim Simon.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The CC discussed adopting regulations/guidelines on Vista pruning. John Bresnahan passed out a report that was issued and adopted by the Town of Mashpee re: Guidelines for Activities Within Naturally Vegetated Buffer Strips (included Vista pruning). The Commissioners will review report and discuss adopting regulations at next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Esther M. Moomjian, Secretary

**The next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, in the conference room at the Longmeadow Police Station, Williams Street.**