

## MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 MEETING

Access via phone (646) 558 8656 or via web at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) with Meeting ID 812 0323 0018 / Password 162937

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:01 P.M. on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 and was again conducted remotely, this time consistent with Governor Baker's Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 extending certain provisions that were previously held during the state of emergency.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Al Laakso, David Dumais, Patrick Carnahan, Kiernan Mulcahy, John Bresnahan **Absent:** Kimberly Barton, Andrea Chasen, Christopher Nolan.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Fred & Nora VanDerhoof

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:** Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to accept the minutes of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary \$2,076.04, Maintenance: \$800, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$104, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,758.15, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,615.09.

**RDA – TREE REMOVAL AT 1241 WILLIAMS ST.:** Mr. VanDerhoof had recently noticed a pine tree beginning to uproot and leaning against a healthy tree on the southeast corner of his lot and filed the application to request permission to remove it. However, days before the public meeting strong winds uprooted both trees, causing them to fall in the vicinity Longmeadow Brook but sparing nearby structures. Mr. VanDerhoof's intent is now to remove the downed trees by means of onsite cutting and removal from premises with heavy equipment when the soil conditions improve, as at this time the soil is muddy.

Photographic evidence demonstrates the presence of diseased trees adjacent to the downed trees, therefore it is the commission's recommendation to include removal of said trees in the scope of work as well. Due to the high tree density in the area, the commission encourages the planting of new ornamental trees in a location of the property owner's choosing. Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to issue a Negative Determinations #2 and #6 for the project of tree removal at 1241 Williams Street when soil conditions improve. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

*Documents presented: Aerial view of 1242 Williams Street and images from RDA dated 02/16/2022.*

*Mr. John Bresnahan joined the meeting at 7:24pm.*

**DEP 205-329 – REQUEST FOR OOC EXTENSION, BIRNIE ROAD LANDFILL CLOSURE PROJECT:** The Order of Conditions for this project is set to expire in the summer 2022. However, requests by MassDEP and Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) that the invasive species management plan to be implemented as the last step of the project is to include careful use of herbicides, therefore extending the timeline of the plan's implementation beyond the OOC's expiration date. As such, the DPW is requesting an OOC extension.

Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to provide a 3-year extension expiring on October 21, 2025 to the Order of Conditions issued for the Birnie Road Landfill Closure project filed under DEP 205-329. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**LEAF RECYCLING PROGRAM AT GASEK FARM - FIELD MEASUREMENTS:** The annual measurements continue to prove that the tilling of leaves on the farm's soil have minimally impacted the elevation levels over time. The commission is confident that the program is not reducing the compensatory storage of the fields and accepts the report. Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Mulcahy, to accept the reports as confirmation that the program is not causing adverse effects on the land. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**VOTE – GASEK FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION:** The commission evaluated recommendations made by Massachusetts DCR on the management plan that had been approved on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to the amended Gasek Farm Management Plan. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – The following items were discussed:

1. Mr. Tom Baggott has been notified about the need to remove discarded old field coverings from the Gasek Farm area. Additionally, Mr. Baggott anticipates that the upcoming growing season will consist of corn, squash, cucumbers and peppers.
2. The Community Gardens driveway fence has been damaged recently due to fallen tree limbs during storms, the DPW has been notified to aid in the fence reparation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*