

MINUTES OF MARCH 11th, 2020 MEETING

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on March 11th, 2020 in the conference room at the Longmeadow Police Station.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Harvey, Ryan Gasparini and Peter Maziarz from DPW.

The Commission extended a warm welcome to new Associate Kiernan Mulcahy.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair Al Laakso made a motion to accept the minutes of February 12th, 2020 as presented and Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0, minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary \$3,105.83, Maintenance \$425.26, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$-182, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,360.65, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,423.01.

NOI – MORNINGSIDE DRIVE CULVERT REPLACEMENT (CONTINUATION): The applicant has requested additional time to provide signoffs from all the property owners, therefore the public hearing will be extended to March 25th.

WETLAND VIOLATION 45 TWIN HILLS DRIVE: The commission is in receipt of a letter from the St. Clair Landscape firm retained by Dr. & Mrs. Muslu which indicates that wetlands consultant Mr. Michael Mocko will assist in the preparation of the proposal upon his return on April 3rd.

Documents presented: Letter from St. Clair Landscaping.

DISCUSSION – LONGMEADOW WETLANDS BYLAW REVISIONS: After the commission approved changes on February 12th, additional language proposed by Town Counsel was received. Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Bresnahan, to accept the language proposed by Town Counsel for the Longmeadow's Chapter 700 Wetlands Control Bylaw as presented for further inclusion in the May Town Meeting Warrant. All in favor 5-0, motion approved.

DISCUSSION – GASEK FARM LEAF FIELD RESULTS: The commission unanimously agrees to continue the leaf recycling program as field test results show that the elevation levels have remained consistent over time indicating no loss of floodplain volume. The commission will continue to review the water test results of the test wells; however, the shallow nature of the wells generates higher levels of certain particles. The water test results have established a database that may allow insight on the impact of agricultural practices.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. The commission will once again look into the possibility of a loam donation to the Community Gardens with Maintenance funds.
2. Mr. Bresnahan encouraged the commission to look into alternatives to obtain funds for tree clearing on Cooley Brook in Laurel Park that is diverting the brook's flow. He also notified the commission that the Longmeadow Country Club is scheduled to begin new irrigation

system installation next fall; the scope of work is being developed; therefore, the Commission's jurisdiction is unclear at this time.

3. Mr. Tom Baggott and the Town's Procurement department recently renewed the Gasek Farm contract.
4. DPW interns Frank Harvey, Ryan Gasparini and Peter Maziarz approached the commission with the intent of discussing the Adopt-A-Stream program and its feasibility in Longmeadow. The team has been looking into as many as six control measures that would allow the reduction of pollutants in discharge water, which range from particles to household trash and copious amounts of dog excrement bags. As an example, the Longmeadow Brook is currently ranked at #5 in water quality, the worst level based on standards from several agencies. Initiatives such as volunteer cleanup events may begin to help with the clearing of visible trash. Due to the fact that town storm drains discharge water into the brooks, maintenance projects for continuous cleanup of catch basins is an ongoing necessity. The commission is grateful for the interns' brainstorming efforts and is willing to assist and support in any initiative once it is defined.
5. A presentation on the town's invasive species with Environmental Biologist Jennifer Forman-Orth was coordinated by Ms. Andrea Chasen and is to be held on April 14 at Storrs Library pending the future status of Storrs Library being open because of coronavirus control.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano