

## MINUTES OF APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MEETING

Access via phone (646) 558 8656 or via web at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) with Meeting ID 978 3389 7549 / Password 798869

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 P.M. on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and was again conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth related to the Covid19 pandemic.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** William Loiselle.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:** Mr. Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Ms. Chasen, to accept the minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote: Mr. Laakso, yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Gazillo: yes; Mr. Nolan: abstained. All in favor 4-0 with one abstention, motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary \$2,537.49, Maintenance \$774.80, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$-641.00, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,690.65, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,598.74. The commission will look into purchasing MACC e-handbook access for commissioners' education and the possibility of utilizing maintenance funds for projects in the riverfront area before the end of the fiscal year.

**DISCUSSION – VIOLATION AT 32 LINCOLN RD:** The commission is in receipt of two complaints of tree cutting on a jurisdictional area at 32 Lincoln Rd., hence property owner Mr. William Loiselle's presence at the request of the commission; the lot west of Mr. Loiselle's property is Conservation Land that is "in the care, custody and control of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission" and the town has drainage rights connecting to the stream located to the rear of Mr. Loiselle's property as described by the deed.

Mr. Williams Loiselle provided some background history by indicating that he moved into the property in December 2020 and he reached out to Monster Tree Services to address the cutting and clearing of rotten trees and already fallen trees in the Conservation Land adjacent to his property as well as embankment erosion that could jeopardize his dwelling unit (which sits in close proximity to the lot line) with the intention of planting some native trees to replenish the area. According to his tree contractor the town approved the intended work, however, exact information on which town department allegedly approved this work was not provided nor does the commission have any records of being approached for this project. He expressed his longstanding advocacy for conservation and apologized for the project's outcome.

While various commissioners thanked Mr. Loiselle for his willingness to take responsibility and work with the commission to remedy the disturbance, he was informed that experienced tree contractors are aware of the implications of tree cutting and debris disposal in town and, while the commission has the right to impose fines for violations, the commission deems it in the best interest of the ecosystem to allow Mr. Loiselle to swiftly develop a restoration plan; it was also noted that, contrary to popular belief, dead and fallen trees in resource areas do play a role in the health and vitality of the ecosystem providing there is no impediment to the flow of storm water. He was encouraged to obtain advice from the Tree Committee on appropriate tree species to plant under these conditions, as well as seek the services of an arborist with appropriate qualifications in order to present his plan to the commission within a month.

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

1. A property owner in the Knollwood Drive area is expected to submit an NOI for work related to a retaining wall.
2. The Nature Conservancy is looking for a Longmeadow Conservation Commissioner to participate in a video that will promote the Fannie Stebbins land, its origins, current stakeholders and project outlooks. Commissioner David Dumais will represent the commission in such endeavor.
3. Commissioner Andrea Chasen thanked the commissioners that volunteered for the recent Longmeadow Earth Day cleanup event, one that helped collect over 1.5 tons of trash and hazardous waste and highlighted the need to address the town-wide issue of illegal dumping.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*