

MINUTES OF MAY 26th, 2021 MEETING

Access via phone (646) 558 8656 or via web at www.zoom.us with Meeting ID 981 3854 8438 / Password 290005

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 P.M. on May 26th, 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, John Bresnahan. **Absent:** Roman Berman, Christopher Nolan, Kiernan Mulcahy, Stephen Gazillo.

OTHERS PRESENT: David Sagan from USFWR, Chris Polatin representing Friends of Fannie Stebbins.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Ms. Chasen made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to accept the minutes of April 28th, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote: Mr. Laakso, yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary \$2,001.50, Maintenance \$774.80, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$-641.00, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,690.65, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,600.84. The increase in the Miscellaneous account was due to the legal notice for the farm contract published in the local newspaper that the Purchasing Department assigned to the ConCom account. The matter was discussed with the Finance Director and the account will be adjusted accordingly.

RDA – NEW VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN ON AMTRAK'S RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Mr. Lewis anticipated that overlapping meetings would likely prevent him from attending, but due to the similarities of the plan herein with prior versions and the fact that a substantial portion of the proposal does not involve herbicide use, the commission proceeded with the RDA review in Mr. Lewis' absence. The plan consists of a combination of mechanical vegetation removal and limited spray activity along Amtrak's right-of-way in Longmeadow as depicted in the plans, which traverses the town's floodplain area. Based on 310 CMR 10.03 (6) and 310 CMR 10.58 (6)(a) as cited in Mr. Lewis' cover letter, Mr. Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Bresnahan, to concur with the resource delineation as reflected in the RDA and issue a Negative Determination #3 and #5. Roll call vote: Mr. Laakso, yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

DISCUSSION – VIOLATION AT 32 LINCOLN RD: Due to a communication mishap, Mr. Loisel was not in attendance, therefore the matter was continued to the June 9th meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. Mr. Polatin and Mr. Sagan were present at the meeting to offer the commission the opportunity to participate in the formation of a stewardship committee with representatives from all floodplain stakeholders. Despite the various stakeholders, the land and its ecological features are contiguous and all property owners do share common goals, therefore the committee's intent would be to have a regular presence on the land, provide trail maintenance, develop restoration projects and invasive species management plans in a cohesive manner, with said project being funded by an interest-bearing account that will be opened following an NRCS deal and other grant opportunities that may be tapped. While one representative from the commission was expected, commissioners John Bresnahan, Andrea Chasen and David Dumais all volunteered to participate in such committee; depending on the final workload, the Longmeadow commissioners may participate simultaneously or take turns in order to guarantee at least one individual representing the Commission at all times. David Sagan will look into date alternatives in the near future for the first committee meeting.
2. On June 1st Chair Al Laakso will participate in a meeting convened by Town Manager Lyn Simmons to address the complaints the town received regarding trash dumping in the meadows.

3. Commissioner David Dumais will look to schedule a brainstorming session at the Riverfront area in the near future with the purpose of developing ideas that could further enhance the area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano