

MINUTES OF JUNE 9th, 2021 MEETING

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A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 P.M. on June 9th, 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, Christopher Nolan, David Dumais, Stephen Gazillo.
Absent: Roman Berman, John Bresnahan, Kiernan Mulcahy, Andrea Chasen.
OTHERS PRESENT: DPW Director Geoff McAlmond, April Doroski from Tighe & Bond, William Loiselle, Dennis Gordon.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to accept the minutes of May 26th, 2021 as presented. However, with two members anticipating abstention, the motion was withdrawn and May 26th meeting minutes will be reviewed at a subsequent meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report was provided this evening.

VOTE – TO AMEND DOA ISSUED FOR AMTRAK'S RECENT RDA: After issuing a Determination of Applicability on June 2nd, MassDEP deemed the document invalid. Upon review of the regulations cited by MassDEP, Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to rescind the Negative Determination of Applicability #3 and #5 issued to TEC Associates on June 2nd and issue a new Positive Determination of Applicability #2a. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Nolan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Gazillo: abstained. All in favor 3-0 with one abstention, motion passed.

NOI – TURNER PARK DAM IMPROVEMENTS: Ms. April Doroski explained that the project was conceived after a 2019 inspection of the 60-foot long dam revealed deficiencies that deem the structure as being in "poor" condition and prevent the dam from complying with the regulations of Massachusetts Dam Safety. Project highlights are as follows:

1. Vegetation on and within 20 feet of the dam, as noted during the 2019 inspection, will be removed to maintain compliance with state regulations; voids created by stump and root removal will be filled with suitable fill and topped with loam to match existing grades.
2. Approximately 80 feet of riprap slope armoring will be constructed on the upstream slope of the dam to address erosion.
3. A dense graded crushed stone walking path will be constructed to minimize erosion and disturbance from regular foot traffic along the crest of the dam; the 10-foot wide path will connect the existing paved area to the east to the trail within the wooded area to the north.
4. Upland areas are to be restored.

Mr. Dennis Gordan (10 Williamsburg Drive) is a Turner Park abutter and is concerned that the water table in the area has risen. However, after explaining the hydrology of the area (specifically the Longmeadow Brook and Trout Pond), he was advised that the armoring of the dam would have no impact on the hydrology of the area.

Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Nolan to issue an Order of Conditions for the Turner Park Dam Improvements project with the following special conditions:

1. Proper notification and signage to park users identifying the construction area.
2. The overflow pipe discharge be cleared up to remove the abandoned old piping and stones.
3. The applicant or its agents are required to replant and stabilize all disturbed areas, with additional monitoring once per year in late spring for a period of two years after project

completion to inspect potential growth of invasive species and report findings to the commission; should invasive species be detected at any time, best management practices must be utilized as mitigation.

Roll call vote: Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Nolan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Gazillo: yes. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

DISCUSSION – WETLANDS VIOLATION AT 32 LINCOLN RD: Mr. Loisel's remediation plan is based on consultation with former Tree Warden Dave Marinelli, who has advised him on the native plants best suited to populate the area and reduce erosion, while addressing the invasive species already present. The prior tree contractor that left cut logs in the area will be asked to come back and finish the removal and a new contractor is recommended to be involved in the planting process; all work is to be performed along the property lines and into the conservation land abutting Mr. Loisel's property. The commission requested that Mr. Loisel complete the planting activity by Fall 2021.

Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to approve the restoration plan with the expectation that work is completed by October 31st, 2021. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Nolan: no; Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Gazillo: yes. Three in favor and 1 opposed (3-1), motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. Mr. Dumais is interested in pursuing brainstorming sessions to develop ideas for Conservation Riverfront area improvements, weather permitting.
2. Commissioner Gazillo revealed that he had submitted a letter of nomination for Chair Al Laakso for the 2021 Longmeadow Citizen of the Year award, which was also co-signed by the rest of the commissioners. Although the recognition ultimately went to Ms. Marie Angelides, the commissioners praised Mr. Laakso for his unwavering commitment to protect the town's resource areas in his decades as a conservation commissioner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano