

MINUTES OF JUNE 10th, 2020 MEETING

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Access via phone (646) 558 8656 or via web at www.zoom.us with Meeting ID 962 8675 1828 / Password 985377.

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:01 P.M. on June 10th, 2020 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, Christopher Nolan, Stephen Gazillo, Andrea Chasen, John Bresnahan, **Absent:** Kiernan Mulcahy.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Engineer Tim Keane; LPRD Director Bari Jarvis; John Hammer, Mark Arigoni and Mike Gagnon from Millone & MacBroom; Christina Wagner

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Ms. Chasen, to accept the minutes of May 13th, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote: Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Laakso: yes; Mr. Nolan: yes, Mr. Dumais: yes, Mr. Gazillo: Mr. Bresnahan: yes. All in favor 6-0, motion passed, minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary \$1,665.89, Maintenance \$425.26, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$0, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,360.65, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,452.61.

ENFORCEMENT ORDER – 1255 WILLIAMS ST.: The order was issued to the property owner after the commission received a complaint call for illegal work performed in the rear of the property, which is adjacent to Longmeadow Brook. Ms. Wagner explained that the trees were removed due to decay and impending hazard to her young family and claimed that she was unaware of the process of obtaining Emergency Certifications for such instances; she apologized for the incident and expressed desire to move forward through the appropriate channels. She also indicated that the landscape vendor that she originally contacted had not been able to provide a written restoration plan in time for this meeting. Mr. Laakso explained that the tree contractor should have been aware of the implications of tree work inside the buffer zone of a resource area. The commission granted Ms. Wagner the opportunity to present a restoration plan at the June 24th meeting.

RDA – WILLOW BROOK RD. STORM DRAIN REHABILITATION: Town Engineer Tim Keane explained that the system consists of a series of catch basins and buried drain lines under road pavement that discharge into Longmeadow Brook and the improvements consists of the following key points:

1. Installation of new and larger catch basins and drainage manholes.
2. The existing lines are to be flushed and rehabilitated using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) technology. This product takes up to three days to cure but allows the pipe to retain its current flow.
3. There will be no changes to the outfall.
4. All work is to be performed under pavement, therefore there will be no filling, dredging or alteration of surrounding grounds.

Mr. Dumais requested that, per the recent NOI presented for the Morningside Drive culvert replacement project, the work should include stenciled lettering at catch basins deterring residents from throwing trash in them.

Mr. Laakso made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Nolan, to issue a Determination of Applicability Negative #2 and #6 with the condition that stenciled lettering at catch basins be included. Roll call vote: Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Laakso: yes; Mr. Nolan: yes, Mr. Dumais: yes, Mr. Gazillo: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. All in favor 6-0, motion passed.

Documents presented: complete RDA application with plans Sheet 3 and 4 of 4 dated September 2016.

RDA – WOLF SWAMP ATHLETIC FIELDS RENOVATIONS: Mr. Hammer explained that the scope of work consists of the following key points:

1. The proposed project involves the renovation of the existing athletic fields at Wolf Swamp Park and will include six new athletic fields and two new baseball/softball fields; bordering vegetated wetlands are located to the south of the property.
2. The property is mostly flat and existing grading is to remain, with minimal adjustments per field to aid with drainage.
3. Parking capacity is to be increased and the surface, as well as the surface of new walking paths connecting the fields to the parking areas, will be semi-impervious ground-up aggregates.
4. Drainage will consist of yard drains, underdrains and drywells that will be added between the fields to improve overall drainage. The irrigation system will use a combination of well and town water.
5. The work will take place within the already disturbed area, this does include portions of the project along the southern border to fall 100-foot buffer zone (about 1.8 acres) and will also encroach into the 50-foot "Do Not Disturb" zone in certain spots (about 0.37 acres).
6. Test pit data records indicate that the terrain consists of topsoil of to 1' in depth in some areas, followed by a layer of fine brown silty sand of up to 1' in depth and a layer of gray sand underneath.

Members of the commission debated whether the project should have been presented as a NOI due to the work within the buffer zones but the key point was the fact that the work was to be performed on already disturbed areas within those zones; there was also dismay at the inclusion of the Conservation Commission's input at the end of the design phase of a town project. Due to lack of information on the irrigation system's water usage, there were also inquiries on how the amount of water to be used may impact the hydrology of the nearby wetlands and whether the irrigation requirements would trigger the issuance of a MassDEP Water Withdrawal permit. An existing easement with Tennessee Gas Pipeline was not mentioned in the documents presented, therefore the commission requested that communications with TGP be established promptly as they typically have requirements pertaining to the use of heavy equipment on areas directly above underground gas lines. The possibility of including signs in the scope of work to delineate conservation land and provide guidelines for trash disposal was also pondered.

With that said, Mr. Laakso made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bresnahan, to continue meeting to June 24th to allow time for the applicant to submit detailed information on water usage (amount of city and well water per day per year). Roll call vote: Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Laakso: yes; Mr. Nolan: no, Mr. Dumais: yes, Mr. Gazillo: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. Five in favor and one opposed 5-1, motion passed.

Documents presented: complete RDA application with set of drawings 6213-05 dated May 20, 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. The positions of Chair and Treasurer were reviewed and no changes were proposed at this time. Ms. Chasen made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Nolan, to maintain Mr. Al Laakso and Mr. David Dumais as Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Roll call vote: Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Laakso: yes; Mr. Nolan: yes, Mr. Dumais: yes, Mr. Gazillo: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes. All in favor 6-0, motion passed.
2. This year's crops at Gasek Farms will consist of eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash and sweet corn.
3. In response to public inquiries, and due to the fact that there are no current guidelines for the proper disposal of invasive species, the commission will research potential alternatives to establish guidelines for the town. Mr. Dumais will consult with Chris Polatin on current practices in the region.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano