

MINUTES OF JULY 14th, 2021 MEETING

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A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:04 P.M. on July 14th, 2021 and was again conducted remotely, this time consistent with Governor Baker's Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 extending certain provisions that were previously held during the state of emergency.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: DPW Director Geoff McAlmond, Andrew Robertson, Peter Levesque, Jeremy Bourque, Garth & Nancy Janes.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to accept the minutes of June 9th, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes.

Additionally, Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Bresnahan, to accept the minutes of May 26th, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: At the end of the fiscal year FY21 the remaining balances were as follows: Salary \$1,173.17, Maintenance: \$774.81, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$-21, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,690.65, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,604.88. The new fiscal year FY22 has just begun therefore no expenses have been reported to date. It was noted that moving forward, the new Salary budget will be \$6,000 instead of \$6,500 and the Miscellaneous budget was increased to \$800.

RDA – NORTH INTERCEPTOR SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT, PHASE 1A: Mr. Bourque and Mr. McAlmond presented the following project highlights:

1. There will be select demolition and abandonment of an existing portion of sewer main extending from the end of Western Drive towards I-91 in order to install a new 8" gravity sewer line and access manholes which will be constructed within the existing 20'-wide permanent easement; all properties owners on Severn Street that will be impacted by this work have been notified.
2. A portion of the line runs parallel to the interstate and within a steep bank that contains a man-made isolated wetland created during the highway's construction decades ago.
3. Trenches will be excavated with heavy machinery and they will be either backfilled or temporarily covered by the end of each work day to avoid exposure.
4. Erosion controls and temporary fencing will be placed on the down gradient side of the proposed work to protect the isolated wetland further down.
5. The project's bid process is set to begin in the next few months with work commencement estimated for late Fall or early Spring.

It was noted that, in prior years, work related to sewer maintenance was considered an exempt activity, but due to the size of this project, it was in the best interest to have documentation of a review. With no further discussion Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Ms. Chasen, to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability #1 and #6 with the condition that the commission be notified when erosion control devices are installed prior to work commencement for inspection. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

NOI – RETAINING WALL AT 148 KNOLLWOOD DRIVE: Mr. Levesque and Mr. Robertson presented the following project highlights:

1. The property owners need to replace two (2) failed wood retaining walls with two (2) new Versa-Lok walls on the western and northern sides of the property. Both walls are on steep banks that lead to intermittent streams that, after their junction point, continue to flow northerly into nearby Longmeadow Brook.
2. The proposed activity for the retaining wall on the western side of the property will be within 10 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) that has been identified in the property's vicinity and erosion controls will be installed 3"-down-gradient of the proposed walls.
3. The finished face height of both walls will range between 8" and 18".
4. Construction is expected to take three days and will be scheduled on days where no rain is forecasted.

Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Ms. Chasen, to issue an Order of Conditions for the proposed work as depicted in the NOI submitted for 148 Knollwood Drive dated July 1, 2021. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. MA's DCR has requested that the commission make updates to the decades-old Gasek Farm Management Plan. Commissioner Bresnahan has volunteered to aid in the revision process over the next several weeks.
2. Chair Al Laakso discussed a Select Board proposed procedure for rotation of the chair position every two years for boards and committees that was not approved. The Conservation Commission, the Board of Assessors and the Zoning Board of Appeals would have been exempt with the recommendation to rotate chairs where qualified members are available. Mr. Laakso asked if there were any commissioners willing to serve as the chair person, but seeing that there were no candidates, Mr. Laakso and Mr. Dumais will continue to serve as chair and treasurer, respectively.
3. The first crop planting of the season on the Gasek farm fields consists of corn and squash. The second planting will rotate the crops consisting of squash, cucumbers and kale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano