

MINUTES OF AUGUST 14th, 2019 MEETING

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on August 14th, 2019 in the conference room at the Longmeadow Police Station.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Al Laakso, Stephen Gazillo, Andrea Chasen, John Bresnahan, James Ryan. **Absent:** David Dumais.

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Comee Wetland Consultant, Kimberly Masuk from Associated Builders, Bill Keavany from Pearson Williams Development, Marie Angelides,

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair Al Laakso made a motion to accept the minutes of July 10th, 2019 as presented and John Bresnahan seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0 with one abstention (James Ryan), minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary Account \$6,022.20; Maintenance \$665.26; Office Supplies \$100; Misc. \$497.00; ConCom Trust Fund \$9,308.14; ConCom Wetland Protection Fund \$6,678.65.

RDA – WETLAND DELINEATION FOR 1280 WILLIAMS STREET: Ms. Comee provided the following details:

1. The property is a flat 5-acre parcel with rapidly permeable soil located on the northerly side of Williams Street near the Williams St./Dwight Rd. intersection and abuts both residential and commercial properties. An old religious facility was razed in recent years with the large bituminous parking surface still remaining in site; the backside is a forested area that abuts an off-site isolated vegetated wetland (IVW).
2. The evaluation identified one IVW (identified in plans with flags W18-W28) off site to the north and one suspect IVW along the site's westerly property line.
3. Despite being described by two wetland scientists under two previous filings to be non-jurisdictional, the suspect IVW presented approximately 4 inches of ponded water covered by a layer of ice. Due to the unprecedented hydrologic cycle from the fall of 2018 to the spring of 2019, the area continued to pond and, therefore monitored, although no vernal pool or valuable wildlife characteristics have ever been observed. IVWs are subject to the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and, according to their findings, the suspect area did not meet the hydric soil criteria and is therefore deemed non-jurisdictional, despite the presence of some water throughout time. Other evaluations also confirm that this area is not subject to the Wetland Protection Act or the Longmeadow Wetland Bylaw. Furthermore, because the area had been inspected by Ms. Comee over a decade ago, the suspect area does not appear to be settling into a possible wetland.
4. The 100-foot buffer zone of the IVW offsite is within the parcel in question but outside the area to be disturbed for the project.

Kim from Associated Builders, presented a preliminary plan of the project showing the 100-foot buffer zone of the off-site IVW is within the parcel in question but outside the area to be disturbed for the project. DPW has recommended that the project includes a detention basin along Williams Street.

Considering the inquiries presented in the RDA, Chair Al Laakso made a motion to issue a Determination of Applicability with Positive Determination #2A for the offsite IVW to the north identified as flags W18-W28, Positive Determination #6 for offsite IVW identified with flags W18-W28, Negative Determinations #1 and Negative Determination #6 with reference to suspect area at plan marking TP 1. James Ryan seconded the motion, all in favor 5-0, motion passed.

Documents presented: complete RDA application and “Topographical Plan of Land in Longmeadow MA” drawing number 7838ab01 dated 01/10/2019.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. The railroad crossing at Birnie Rd continues to advance.
2. The commission received a letter from DCR with regards to their recent inspection, in which the agency encourages action to be taken to address dumping and unauthorized vehicular traffic.
3. The Commission sent a letter to Ms. Lucy Atkinson thanking her for her past work on signage along the meadows and for her pioneering efforts in identifying and obtaining beetles that aid in the elimination of invasive species.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano
Secretary