

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2018 MEETING

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on October 10th, 2018 in the conference room at the Longmeadow Police Station.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Al Laakso, Andrea Chasen, Peter Bouvier, Wayne Ottani, Christopher Nolan. **Absent:** Stephen Gazillo, David Dumais, John Bresnahan.

OTHERS PRESENT: David Sagan from US Fish & Wildlife.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: The minutes of September 26, 2018 were accepted as amended. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary Account \$7,640.21; Maintenance \$300; Office Supplies \$47.39; Misc. \$709.58; Con Com Trust Fund \$9,129.77; Con Com Wetland Protection Fund \$6,823.15.

RDA – VIEWING PLATFORM ON PONDSIDE RD. – Mr. David Sagan, on behalf of US Fish & Wildlife, explained that the viewing platform consists of:

1. 48'-long elevated walkway with a covered observation deck at the end to be located to the left of the red property marker currently found on Old Birnie Rd. Should the Town wish to shift the platform within the location to access other viewpoints, this can be accommodated albeit it would require a re-design and additional time.
2. The design has worked in Hadley and other areas within the region. With built-in/foldable benches for youth to work on, the platform is intended to be used as an outdoor classroom for 17-20 people to be used by institutions such as schools, Springfield Science Museum and similar.
3. The platform is at least 6" above water and is ADA accessible.
4. The posts that elevate the structure will be wrapped in chainlink fence material to reduce beaver activity effect.
5. Work to be performed by the institution's in-house maintenance worker with no heavy equipment needed.
6. Should permission be granted, the intent is to start work this fall with the platform's roof installation to occur in the spring.
7. The proposed sign/kiosk will provide information on nature in the area.

Chair Al Laakso indicated that the proposed location is suitable and any shifts or changes in the design may not be as practical. He also pointed out to a corrugated plastic overflow pipe near the proposed location, therefore contractors must ensure there isn't debris obstruction to the pipe. There is also a lot of vegetation that may have to be removed and properly disposed of.

Chair Al Laakso moved to issue Negative Determination #2 and #6 with two additional conditions: to keep clear of the aforementioned overflow pipe and to remove and properly dispose of slash as it cannot be left near the pond. Commissioner Peter Bouvier seconded the motion, all in favor 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. The Bay Path project that was granted a Negative DOA back in the summer has been postponed until the spring.
2. The special conditions that were part of the Order of Conditions issued in the past for the leaf recycling program, require that the Commission be presented with annual field test results to ensure that the fields to not increase in height and that water isn't contaminated. As of date, test results have not been submitted and the DPW has been notified.
3. The contract for farming the fields near the river and for spreading leaves expired on June 30. Chad Thompson from the Town's offices has sent a letter to Tom Baggett offering a 6-month extension in order to base the contract off a calendar year as opposed to fiscal year (which is the middle of farming season). Mr. Baggett has been farming this area for about 47 years due to a recurrent lack of bidders; contract length negotiations are underway.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano
Secretary