

## **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MEETING**

Access via phone (646) 558 8656 or via web at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) with Meeting ID 896 6571 6070 / Password 844121

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 P.M. on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, Patrick Carnahan, David Dumais, Andrea Chasen, Kiernan Mulcahy. **Absent:** Christopher Nolan, John Bresnahan.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Patricia Bloom

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:** Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Ms. Chasen, to accept the minutes of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary \$5,503, Maintenance: \$800, Office Supplies \$100, Miscellaneous \$104, Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,758.15, ConCom Trust Fund \$9,608.70.

**VOTE – GASEK FARMS MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Over the summer the state's Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) approached the commission and requested that the document in question be reviewed and updated. A revision was prepared by Chair Al Laakso and John Bresnahan and was circulated prior to the meeting. However, in looking at references this document makes to licensing agreements between the town and the farmer and considering the findings made by new commissioner Mr. Carnahan of conservation restriction language specific to scenic views in the property's deed, some commissioners proposed that the three documents be reviewed to ensure the vision and intent of the management plan is consistent throughout.

Dave Dumais made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to postpone the vote on Gasek Farm Management Plan to allow more time to review the language and ensure it correlates with the Licensing Agreement that is used by the town's Purchasing Department when handling the farm lease. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, no; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes. Four in favor and one opposed 4-1, motion passed.

**RDA – TREE REMOVAL ON 75 PRYNNE RIDGE RD:** Mrs. Bloom explained that her dwelling unit sits on a lot that is part of a cul-de-sac and is adjacent to the vegetated banks of Longmeadow Brook. There are a number of trees that have achieved extensive height over the decades and are all within a striking distance of the house; she fears that with the number of storms increasing over time that said trees pose an imminent hazard. She intends to mitigate this tree cutting activity by replanting any tree species that the commission may deem acceptable.

Chair Al Laakso made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to issue a Negative Determination #2 and #6 with the condition that the area be replanted with ornamental native plants and that no limbs and/or slash be allowed to enter the stream. Roll call vote - Mr. Laakso, yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Dumais: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.

*Documents presented: RDA application with photographs*

**OTHER BUSINESS** – The following items were discussed:

1. Commissioners were reminded of the upcoming mandatory Open Meeting Law training at the end of the month.

2. Chair Al Laakso and commissioner Dumais met with Peter Levesque recently to walk thru the commission's riverfront properties to brainstorm ideas that could be implemented to enhance the area and determine the level of complexity in executing these ideas under an overall improvement plan. Some ideas include expanding the views, debris clearing and increasing accessibility. The next step is to prepare renderings and/or plans that detail the scope of work, set up a project timeline and explore funding alternatives.
3. The storm outfall at the end of Shady Knoll Drive will require some maintenance to minimize erosion but the steep slope will challenge DPW's efforts, thus a Notice of Intent will be required for any work that the DPW may propose in the jurisdictional area of Raspberry Brook.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*