

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING minutes
March 10, 2021
7:00 PM

Present: Brett Butler (Chair), Jenn Hoyle Fair, Ana Devlin Gauthier

Staff: Dave Ziomek, Stephanie Ciccarello

Absent: Leroy Gaynor, Laura Pagliarulo, Fletcher Clark

Meeting called to Order 7:00 PM

7:00 PM Comments from the Chair (Brett Butler)

- Reported that he provided a letter to the TSO as requested on behalf of the Commission

Director's Report (Dave)

- New Assistant Land Manager – Brendan Kelly - beginning in late March
- Field mowing getting done this winter by B Bordewieck
- DZ & SC mtg with Town Counsel re access to FRF Cons Area
- DZ presenting to the JCPC – need for Cons Dept trucks hoping for their support
- Preliminary approval to hire summer ambassadors via federal funding - presence at Puffer's Pond and some of the trails and recreation areas

Wetland Administrator's Report (Stephanie for Erin)

- Provided general information on upcoming projects

7:15 PM Review and approval of Minutes from 2/24/21

MOTION: Devlin Gauthier moved to accept the minutes of 2-24-21. Ambs 2nd

VOTE: Approved by voice vote 4-0-0

7:30 PM Request for Determination – Kenneth Lauzier for Amherst College for replacement and repair of 4 footbridges on Amherst College Property (*continued from 2/10/21*). Foot bridges are located in wetlands and buffer zones and within priority habitat areas at Map 14D, Lot 1.

Devlin Gauthier abstained from the discussion as an employee of Amherst College. Lauzier provided an overview of the project and presented a powerpoint identifying the project area, a recap of the proposal and plan details. Discussion regarding design and procedural pathways.

Motion to continue to March 24th at 7:45 PM as the Commission did not have a quorum to vote on the hearing.

MOTION: Fair moved to continue the meeting to March 24, 2021 at 7:45 PM.

VOTE: Ambs 2nd - Voice vote 3-0-1 (Devlin Gauthier abstained)

7:35 PM Notice of Intent – Town of Amherst Department of Public Works for construction of 9,500 linear foot extension of drinking water main, associated valves, service lines, hydrants, etc. under East Leverett Road, Cushman Road and Teawaddle Road (Leverett) (*continued from 2/24/21*) with directional drilling under Cushman Brook.

Beth Willson of Amherst DPW gave complete overview/summary for benefit of Jenn Fair (absent at last meeting); Directional drilling confirmed depths: from stream bed to the pipe is estimated 10-15 feet; bore pits 150-200 feet from streambank. Willson presented a directional drilling schematic. Ziomek stated his concern regarding the road shoulder and impact to turtles. He requested the plan include a sweep on to the road shoulders where vehicle construction parking is located.

Ciccarello recommended the following Special Conditions:

- A dewatering plan be submitted prior to work
- Wood turtle protection plan be submitted prior to work
- Frac out plan be submitted
- The Wetlands Administrator be present for drilling under Cushman Brook

MOTION: Fair moved to issue boiler plate and Special Conditions as noted for a 9,500 linear foot extension of drinking water main, associated valves, service lines and hydrants under East Leverett Road. Devlin Gauthier 2nd.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote 4-0-0

Miscellaneous

- Other Business
- Enforcement Orders:
 - Canton Ave – Robert Stover for Pete Wilson – Permit # 89-0629
 - MOTION:** Devlin Gauthier moved to issue an Enforcement Order for Canton Ave to levy a fine of \$300/day for each day the wetland boundary is not survey re-located. Finig to commence 3/11/21 – previous enforcement stands. Ambs 2nd.
 - VOTE:** Voice Vote 4-0-0
 - Atkins Peach-Berry Hill DEP Stop Order – Ciccarello reported no action necessary
- Emergency Certifications
- Sanitary Sewer Overflow Bypass Notification
 - 100 College Street - Beth Willson, DPW, gave an overview
- Monitoring Reports
 - Aspen Heights
 - 70 university Drive
- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Meeting Adjourned 8:55 PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Ciccarello**