

**TOWN OF AMHERST
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2021
7:00 PM**

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

Butler commented on the composition of the Commission, and stated that at the next meeting the Commission needs to appoint a new Chair and Co-Chair.

Ziomek also noted that the Governors emergency order was set to expire after June 15th. Legal ads should note that meeting will either be in person or virtual. All board members expressed support for remote meetings that are more accessible to everyone.

Director's Report (Dave)

Ziomek noted cribbing repair at Puffers

Water testing at Puffers was okay.

Water testing at Wentworth had high levels of eColi.

More comprehensive water testing of the Fort River is planned.

Sweet Alice trail improvements will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Review and approval of Minutes

Moved by Clark to approve 5/26/21 minutes. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.

Land Use Applications

Conditions/reminders: The town does not set up for events, those using the property for special events must share the property with the public, no vehicles can drive to the top of Mt. Pollux, Insurance not required for weddings, for the small bus the applicant should scout out turning radius to make sure it will work.

Moved by Devlin Gauthier to approve the Land Use Application for September 18, 2021 wedding at Mt. Pollux. Seconded by Pagliarulo. All in favor.

7:30 PM Notice of Intent (cont. from 3-24-21) – Haines Hydrogeologic Consulting for Amherst Poor Farm, LLC for wetland restoration in both the Riverfront and Bordering Vegetated Wetland resource areas and agricultural activities in the buffer zone of bordering vegetated wetlands. Located at 214 Pomeroy Lane (Map 20C, Parcel 23).

Moved by Devlin Gauthier to continue (at applicant's request) 214 Pomeroy Lane hearing to July 7, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.

7:35 PM Request for Determination – Keith Morris for New England Central Railroad for determining whether the sensitive area boundaries delineated on submitted plan are accurate (New England Central Railroad right-of-way).

Moved by Ambs to continue hearing (at applicant's request) for New England Central Railroad to June 23, 2021 at 7:40 PM. Seconded by Gaynor. All in favor.

7:40 PM Notice of Intent – GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc. on behalf of Lisa Kittredge for the construction of a tennis court and associated drainage at 29 Mill Lane (Map 17C, Parcel 174).

Moved by Gaynor to continue public hearing for 29 Mill Lane to June 23, 2021 at 7:50 PM. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.

7:40 PM Request for Determination – Town of Amherst for enhancements to the existing parking area at the Stanley Street/Wentworth Farm/Kiwanis Field parking area (Map 18A, Parcel 16 & 17).

Rob Morra, Building Inspector and David Ziomek presented the proposed parking area enhancement project. Morra noted that the existing boulders will be relocated, the surface will be regraded, processed gravel will be placed as surfacing, signage will be installed, and stone dust path will be installed. Ambs asked about how the spots will be delineated. It was decided chalk or paint would delineate parking at first until users understood the parking system. Ziomek said the project will improve safety.

Public Comment:

Johanna Newmann of 137 Stanely Street: Happy to hear the parking is getting pulled back from the river. Said there was a golf cart down at the river, the improvements will prevent vehicle access. Asked about shrubs being removed, and noted a large dead tree beside the ballfield.

Ziomek said he will speak to the tree warden about the dead tree, and that the materials up against the fence will be removed.

Jacque recommended boilerplate state and local conditions.

Moved by Devlin Gauthier to issue a Negative Determination under the Wetlands Protection Act and a Positive Determination under the local wetlands bylaw to approve the parking enhancements on Stanley Street. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.

7:45 PM Notice of Intent – Town of Amherst proposes several new footbridges, bog bridges, replacement footbridges and replacement bog bridges as well as associated trail improvements in various locations along the Robert Frost Trail (Robert Frost Trail Right-of-Way).

Moved by Ambs to continue the public hearing for the Robert Frost Trail improvements to July 7, 2021 at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.

The Commission asked about the Tofino plan updates, and asked for Jacque to provide some guidance on the buffers to the applicant for the plan revisions.

Miscellaneous

Other Business

1. Chapter 61 withdrawals: Waiting for a recommendation from Town Council. Jacque will prepare reports on the resources on the properties.
- 2.

Enforcement Orders:

1. 286 West Pomeroy lane: Sharon Rogaleski was present. Board agreed to allow seasonal mowing of the pollinator meadow around the vernal pool/wetland, hand pulling of invasive species and poison ivy. Commission said no future mowing within the wetland.
2. 121 Pondview Drive: Jacque will draft letter for Brett.

Certificates of Compliance

29 Hawthorn Drive

Moved by Devlin Gauthier to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance for 29 Hawthorn Drive. Seconded by Gaynor. All in favor.

Request for Amendments to Orders of Conditions

51 E. Pleasant Street

Moved by Clark to approve Minor Administrative Changes to Order of Conditions for invasive species management plan and allow removal of asphalt curbing at 51 East Pleasant Street. Seconded by Devlin Gauthier. All in favor.

Palley Village Place – Lot 5

Moved by Clark to approve a Minor Administrative Change to Order of Conditions to adjust house footprint lot 5 Palley Village Place. Seconded by LeRoy. All in favor.

Moved by Devlin Gauthier to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Seconded by Ambs. All in favor.