



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2020
Meeting via Zoom

Commissioners present - Marci Caplis, Mary Dudek, Todd Lynch, Andrew MacLachlan, and Joe Rogers

Members of the public present - Chris Chamberland, Berkshire Design Group; Chuck Miller

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

Violation at 86 Ashfield Road: Wetland scientist Ward Smith flagged the site. Mr. Chamberland is a consultant hired by Chuck Miller to mitigate wetlands impacts addressed in the violation. He tried to identify a permitting pathway as if the work was being proposed. Replacement of an existing stream crossing would have required a NOI. He looked at a plan to meet the stream crossing standard to the maximum extent practical. There is an increase in the model due to a single altered pier - the one in the middle. He is not concerned about destabilization of banks or decrease in the sedimentation downstream. The bridge predates 1981. Stream crossing standards were not met by the original bridge, and to meet them now would require a 46 feet wide bridge. That cost is not practical.

According to the regulations, if the stream crossing standard cannot be fully complied with, then these conditions must be met: Responses from Mr. Chamberland are in parentheses.

- Eliminate the inlet and outlet drop. (NA)
- Ensure flow contraction does not create scouring. (He does not believe it is substantial.)
- Ensure no tail water scouring. (NA)
- Ensure the stream still allows passage of fish. (It does.)
- Not impact BVW. (BVW gets close to the piers and may have been impacted, but not much.)
- Not impact priority habitat. (None present.)

Commissioners brought up the following concerns and questions:

- There should be some needed unknown volume of compensatory storage.
- Do piers increase scouring of the river?

Marcianna Caplis C. Todd Lynch Joseph Rogers Mary Dudek Andrew MacLachlan
Williamsburg Conservation Commissioners
Melinda McCall, Commission Secretary

- Will there be problems during a flooding event?
Mr. Chamberland believes there is an opportunity to make up lost storage, possibly where land was flattened on one side of the river, perhaps to allow stream crossing in the past. Commissioners also discussed possibly clearing some debris from under the bridge near the road to reduce stress on the left bank and to open up the channel. They will look further at the information and send questions to Chamberland,

Progress on 35 Village Hill Road: Heidi Johnson reported that the culvert installation was complete. Mulch logs were not available. An acceptable alternative would be straw bales or a double layer of wattles, with an eye to replacing as needed to ensure integrity of the replication area.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission