



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

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

Members of the public present - none

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Drought Emergency Notification from DEP: The notice was forwarded to the Town Manager, in possibility of a robocall being sent out to town residents.

Road paving on High Street on August 19th: Suggestion was made to check the 12 High Street drainage channel for signs of disturbance before paving is done.

3 North Main Street Barbara Bricker requested an extension on her RDA for lawn work, as it coincides with Town road work which has been delayed. The extension was approved and granted for three years.

Follow up on 40 Goshen Road: The seller is under the assumption that she received approval from the Conservation Commission for varied activities on her land. The potential buyer is reluctant to hire a consultant, as was suggested to him. He has many potential uses for the land but needs a specific plan. Commissioners offered to meet him at the site to give more advice.

Depot Road Culvert The Town did not get enough grant money to cover the original plan, so engineers have downsized to a culvert half as wide as planned before. This new design does not meet the stream crossing

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

standards but may possibly be permitted as a limited project. It will be an improvement over existing conditions. However, there is concern about the level of permitting required by the DEP. A suggestion was made that either the Conservation Commission or the Highway Department hire a consultant to review the plan before submission.

Review of the response from Berkshire Design in regard to Commission questions about restoration work responding to the Enforcement Order for the bridge at 86 Ashfield Road: Commissioners were generally pleased with the responses, which were specific and unbiased, and focused just on the impact on the river. Suggestions are:

1. Clear debris under the bridge. The Commission could require removal of debris without entering the stream, most likely from the bridge.
2. Excavate the old stream crossing. This would require a great deal of permitting and be expensive.
3. Remove invasive species and plant natives in areas disturbed by mitigation work.

Commissioners agreed to accept parts 1 and 3 of the proposed restoration, especially hiring a firm to monitor the native plant restoration work.

GIS project: This project is on hold.

Emergency Certification for removing fallen tree from river on town property: Mr. MacLachlan inspected the situation, and a certification was issued due to concerns about forecasted heavy rain and tornadoes.

Minutes from July 23, 2020 were approved with changes.

Next meeting was scheduled for September 10 at 7:00 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda McCall

Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission