



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022
via Zoom

Commissioners present – Marci Caplis, Mary Dudek, Andrew MacLachlan, Melinda McCall, and Joe Rogers

Members of the public present –Meaghan Tretheway and Rachel Loeffler, The Berkshire Design Group; Bill Sayre, Public Safety Complex Building Committee; Steve Smith, Planning Board

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, ANRAD for Mitch Cichy, 7 Main Street:

The parcel next to Cichy's garage contains a house near the road with a barn and some land in the rear abutting the West Branch of the Mill River. The Berkshire Design Group encouraged Mr. Cichy to submit an ANRAD so that future site planning could be flexible. Final plans will be submitted as an NOI. In addition, paperwork is being submitted to Natural Heritage to get clearance on species of interest.

The river bank is armored with large stone blocks, so the mean high water line is the same as the bank. There are no fringe wetlands beyond the bank. The high water line was clearly flagged and commissioners had no dispute with the markings, nor saw a need for third party confirmation. A motion was made and accepted unanimously to accept the delineations as presented on the plan dated September 10, 2021.

Depot Road culvert replacement, follow up on site visit:

Commissioners visited the site to see the status of on-going work. The new culvert is in place, and work is beginning on construction of the first wing wall. The secondary de-watering basin that Mr. Rogers previously noted had failed, causing an open violation has been removed. The eroded bank and resulting sand flow into the wetlands was

evident. The contractor noted the problem and plans to remediate the wetland by gently scraping the sand out., likely with shovels, and to stabilize the bank at the end of the project. The fuel tank that was noted earlier has also been removed.

Commissioners asked to be notified when the next major phase of work is scheduled. The road will remain closed until spring when the road can be paved. Town Administrator Caccamo is informed about the work and the schedule.

Follow up on the NOI, Public Safety Complex, Berkshire Design Group/Town of Williamsburg:

William Sayre, Public Safety Complex Building Committee, discovered that some of the remediation plantings along the tributary to the Mill River were actually located off of town property. The river does not flow exactly along the property line. Concerns were raised about planting on abutting properties. Since the work area in the southwest corner goes right up to the property line, no remedial planting would be possible on the property.

Commissioners agreed to set up an either/or condition for the plantings. The best choice for the health of the river is to plant the remediation strip as shown, with written permission of the abutters. If the land changes ownership, future owners would be responsible to uphold wetland laws so could not just get rid of the plantings. If abutters do not agree, then move the plantings onto town property, resulting in some planting areas that are wider than ten feet.

Commissioners finalized the special conditions for the NOI.

Review of the site visit to North Farms Road:

Commissioners visited North Farms Road in response to a complaint made by a resident about sediment running off of a construction site at 3 Cider Hill Road. The sediment flowed into two ponds below the site, clouding the pond water. On inspection, evidence of erosion was not observable under a light layer of snow, but the sediment may be carried by construction vehicles. No erosion controls were evident. Commissioners agreed to send a letter alerting the owner of the site that sediment has been observed leaving the site and requesting that the contractor exercise due diligence to install erosion controls to prevent further runoff.

Review of site visit to the Pro-Tech Hatfield Road solar field:

Commissioners visited the solar field in response to a concern made by a resident about large pile of soil on the site that were seen on aerial photographs. In preparation for the

meeting, Commissioners Dudek and MacLachlan reviewed the Storm Water reports noting that erosion controls need repair when weather permits. The soil piles were frozen and stable during the visit, and may be used during construction before spring. The tarp hung under the temporary bridge to catch sediment was filled and hanging into the water. Commissioners will request that the tarp be cleaned out, and that the Commission be notified when large projects such as the retention pond are finished. Another visit will be made at a later date.

The temporary bridge will be replaced after the heavy work is finished on the other side. Concern was expressed about timing. If problems are found and remediation is necessary, equipment may not be available to do the work. However, The contractor is responsible, and would need to bring the necessary equipment back.

Follow up on unpermitted work in the wetlands at 10B Eastern Avenue:

Ms. Caplis received no acknowledgement of the cease and desist letter. A motion was made and approved unanimously to send an enforcement letter to the landowner.

Follow up on Mountain Street site visit:

Commissioners listened to and understood the neighbors' concerns, but feel there is little that can be done on the Commission's end. It was agreed to set up a future site visit to observe the situation further downstream.

Public comments submitted:

Ms Caplis drafted and sent a letter in support of bill [S.2596](#), *An Act allowing municipalities to reasonably regulate solar siting*. This bill allows municipalities to reasonably regulate the siting of commercial, governmental, or non-residential solar systems for the purpose of protecting public health, safety and welfare; preserving forested lands, agricultural lands, or wetlands; or ensuring compatibility with municipal zoning. Four commissioners were signatories.

Minutes from January 6 were approved as amended.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission