



Williamsburg Conservation Commission  
141 Main Street, P.O. Box 447  
Haydenville, Massachusetts 01039-0447  
Phone: 413-268-8416 Fax: 413-268-8409  
conservation@burgy.org

Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2022  
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present –Jeff Smith, Sally Kinder, Bruce Hart

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Notice of Intent, Hyde Hill Road driveway, Sally Kinder:

DEP had not yet issued a file number at the time of the hearing so the conversation is a preview of the NOI. The applicant does not need to republish a legal notice.

Jeff Smith, Wetland Scientist with Prime AE, presented the plan to install a long driveway from Hyde Hill Road to a building site on Walnut Hill. A wetland crosses the entire property, extending into Goshen. The plan involves crossing the wetland at its narrowest section along the eastern edge. The proposed driveway has been shifted east, closer to the property line, since Commissioners visited the site on December 14, 2021. The driveway would have a 3:1 slope and impact wetlands. Wetlands mitigation replication is proposed in an area west of that along the road in an area previously cleared of trees.

The drive then cuts north across the property in order to bypass a steep rocky slope, crossing a narrow seep approximately halfway up the hill, running into Goshen briefly before cutting back and up to the building site. This convoluted path is necessary due to the rugged terrain on the site.

After the site visit, commissioners had requested an alternatives analysis to running the driveway across the wetlands, particularly for sharing an existing driveway that runs adjacent to the proposed one, thus completely bypassing the wetlands. Mr. Smith and Ms. Kinder would prefer not to share the driveway for a number of reasons.

- Coordinating maintenance is challenging
- The existing driveway runs close to the neighbor's house
- The neighbor is away during the winter
- The section of the planned driveway that runs through the wetland is only 25% of the total length.
- Heavy equipment for road and house construction will damage the driveway, requiring repair.

Coming in through Goshen was looked at but would cross more wetlands and a 100 year flood zone.

Commissioners requested more information for the next meeting.

- Detailed plans of the proposed crossings, with review of the Army Corps of Engineers Self Verification Notification Form (SVNF) and the accompanying schematic for opening sizes of wetland crossings.
- More detail about the mitigation area.
  - The hydrology of the area to ensure the viability of the mitigation area.
  - The amount of excavation needed.
  - The amount of organic matter to be added. Mr. Smith replied that the plan is to excavate the wetland soil for the driveway and move it to the mitigation site.
  - A planting plan.
- A report on a discussion with neighbors about sharing the driveway, and with the town about getting a variance to share the driveway. Commissioners did not feel that inconvenience was enough justification to forego sharing a driveway in order to avoid damaging the wetland.

#### Discussion of response to site visit to the Pro-Tech Hatfield Street Solar Site:

Commissioners visited the site to see the status of on-going work due to concerns expressed from piles of soil seen on aerial photographs. Ms. Caplis sent an email to Adam Christie of Protech Engineering with a few concerns from the visit. Below are the concerns and the responses, which were satisfactory.

*At their review of the site, Commissioners observed large piles of soil that are temporarily stabilized. The Commission urges you to take precautions to ensure this material does not fail, causing erosion and sedimentation.*

- *Per Western Earthworks, most of the piles consist of crushed ledge from the hillside and are scheduled to be moved offsite. Those piles are stable and will not fail as most consist of rock. Some of the piles of soil have already been used on the Penny Johnson side as they are working on one of the basins. Pro-*

*Tech and our SWPPP inspector will continue to monitor any and all stockpiles to ensure stabilization and to prevent erosion and sedimentation issues.*

*Commissioners expect that erosion control repairs noted in the SWPPPs will be done when weather conditions allow.*

- *Acknowledged. Repairs will be taken care of when weather permits.*

*Of particular concern is the bridge tarp, which is full and hanging low enough that a high stream flow incident could deposit that sediment into the stream. The Commission asks you to correct this situation immediately.*

- *The tarp was replaced on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. See below.*

Another visit is planned for February 28 at 8:00 to look at progress.

Response to the Enforcement Order for work at 10B Eastern Avenue:

The owner received the Enforcement Order and stopped all work. He plans to attend the April meeting to discuss remediation options.

Minutes from January 13 were approved as amended.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda McCall  
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission