



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present – Walt Benzigar, George Costa, Sally Kinder, Jeff Smith

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

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

The project received a file number and comments from the DEP.

Jeff Smith, Wetland Scientist with Prime AE, shared plans.

As requested by the Commission, the applicants reached out to neighbors about the possibility of sharing a section of the driveway, but got no response.

New details of the two stream crossings were presented.

- The lower crossing consists of an 18” culvert that is partially embedded in the ground, and should have some water in it at all times. This size meets the 25 year rain standard. A larger one would require more excavation and more fill and thus have more of an impact on the wetlands.
- The upper crossing is a hydrologic connection between two sections of the up-slope wetland. The plan will replace the existing culvert, to increase the size and better align it with the water flow.

The replication area is greater in size than the impacted area.

- The plan is to leave as many select trees as possible by using a mini-excavator, to leave large rocks to create hummocks, to transplant the wetland soils and plants from the excavated area to the replication area, and to supplement with nursery stock where necessary.
- Topsoil excavated from the replication area will be temporarily stockpiled on the existing adjacent logging landing, then used on the driveway or spread on the

uplands. More details about the stockpile storage area were requested since it is in the buffer zone, and also the fill volume and slope of the site. Mr. Smith responded that the volume is about 100 cubic yards, and the site is fairly flat.

- Timber mats will be laid through a section of the wetlands to make for more direct access between the driveway and the replication area. No trees will need to be cut. The mats will be in place for five to ten days, before the growing season begins if possible. (We were notified at the pre-construction site visit that this plan is no longer included.)
- An additional year of monitoring was recommended because the survival rate of transplants is low.
- 75% cover is intended, and will come from small shrubs, saplings, sedges, rushes, and ferns, matching the adjacent wetland. If 75% cover is not met after two years, then the Commission will monitor another year. The intent is to ensure that the hydrology is intact and the replication area is functioning as a wetland.
- Mr. Smith, a wetland scientist, will be on site during construction of the replication area.
- Commissioners accepted not having a planting plan because many of the trees and shrubs, along with their associated small plants will be left in place.

An alternate driveway was proposed:

This alternate rounds out a corner, minimizing work in the buffer zone.

Some conditions proposed by commissioners include:

- a pre-construction review of wetland flags in the replication area
- a seal-lock, gasketed truck be used for moving wetland soils
- a definition of the temporary work space with erosion controls or silt fence to keep work contained and to keep small animals out
- restoration of work areas with planting of a seed mix
- spreading of excess soil in the uplands to be done with erosion controls and stabilized with an upland seed mix
- monitor for encroachment of invasive plants in the work area

A motion was made and approved unanimously to accept the project as described, with conditions to follow shortly.

Discussion of 7 Main Street (Cichy) information request:

The designers asked for information about what is needed for plan approval. Mr. Rogers explained that:

- A NOI will be needed.
- The work must not be any closer to the river than the previously disturbed area.
- The proposal must show that the project will improve the waterfront.
- Improvements may have to be done off-site since the site in question is so built

- out.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to offer some improvement, such as planting native species in an existing lawn or garden, or diverting stormwater via gutters or a rain garden.
- Invasive species treatment is not considered an improvement by DEP.

Site Visit to Depot Road culvert:

Mr. MacLachlan visited the site and reported muddy conditions but no apparent sediment flow into the stream. Another site visit will be made in the spring when work resumes.

Site visit to Hatfield Road solar site did not happen due to adverse weather conditions. One will be scheduled in the future.

Minutes from February 10 were approved as amended.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission