



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present – Zinnia Stetson

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Request for Determination: 3 Chesterfield Road:

Zinnia Stetson of Haydenville Woodworking submitted a RDA for the owners of 3 Chesterfield Road, Ryan Stewart and Leigh Fagin. The building is in the riverfront area, separated from the flood plain by a 2-foot stone embankment. The proposal is for reconstruction of a porch, including replacing support posts. The old posts will be removed, and new ones will be made using concrete sono-tubes in the same footprint. All work will be done by hand and there will be minimal disturbance. Commissioners issued a Negative 3 determination with two conditions. 1: A 10-foot section of straw wattle be placed in the flood plain directly below the work area. 2: The Commission will be notified before removal of the wattle.

Review of Site Visits:

- 36 Goshen Road, Bethany Magdalenski: There are serious concerns about the stability of the banks along this stretch of West Branch of the Mill River. The slope on the eastern side is slumping and eroding, and the river is trying to shift west, undercutting the bank, and moving closer to the existing house and to Route 9. Stabilizing this bank will require a complicated and expensive permitting project. Franklin County has an effective system in place through FRCOG, but a similar organization does not exist in Hampshire County. Several entities may be able to help, such as Pioneer Valley Planning Authority, Massachusetts

Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Connecticut River Conservancy, American Rivers. Commissioner Rogers will reach out to them. Commissioner Caplis will reach out to the Federal Department of Fish and Wildlife.

An urgent issue to be addressed is preventing a large pine across the river from falling onto the house. It is currently leaning and its roots are unstable and could be washed out in a heavy river flow. An emergency certification for its removal can be issued, but the commission needs a formal request from either the Highway or Health departments. In addition, permission from the landowner, the name of the contractor, and the date of work to be done are required.

- 1 Ashfield Road, Jason Harder: Commissioners viewed this site from the road. An old house is being torn down and a number of large trees have been removed uphill from that to create building lots. Removal of the house was permitted by the building inspector, who did not realize that the site is in a resource area. Specifically, the work zone, which includes the old house and access to the upper lots, is in outer riverfront and the inner buffer zone, with a well defined wetland visible near the road. There has been removal of vegetation and ground disturbance in BVW (bordering vegetated wetland.) Commissioner Caplis will issue a Stop Work order with a request that the owner get the wetlands delineated, install sedimentation and erosion controls, and create a site stabilization plan for the ground disturbance. Future work will need to be permitted, via a Notice of Intent.
- Commissioner Caplis will contact Jeff Smith and Chris Duval to set up a site visit to Beaver Brook Golf Club, as well as set up a visit to view progress at 10B Eastern Ave, David Gazillo.

Minutes from March 9, 2022 were approved as amended.

Next Meeting: May 18, the third Thursday due to scheduling conflicts.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission