



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2023
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present – none

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

RDA: none

NOI: none

Enforcements:

- Follow up on Enforcement Order, 94 Ashfield Road, Patricia and Roger Tetrault: There is no new information. The contractor got ill and had to delay work. Commissioners would like to go to the site to mark boulders that could be pulled away from the stream and to discuss planting and seeding of exposed soil.
- Follow up on site visit to Gazillo and release from Enforcement: Commissioners observed that the original line marking the wetlands was ignored and the yard area was pushed back into the wetlands. J. Rogers will write a letter explaining this and requesting that the Gazillos plant a row of wetland shrubs in the grassy edge as a boundary to discourage further encroachment.
- House adjacent to Beaver Brook Golf Course: Brush-hogging along the river followed by hogging out of roots with an excavator is clearly visible from the road. No erosion controls are in place. This work is taking place in protected turtle habitat. An enforcement order was issued requesting a restoration plan.

- Follow up on 78 Ashfield Road, Shawn Hodges bridge reconstruction at 58 Ashfield Road: An enforcement order was sent to Shawn Hodges, but no response was received. An additional enforcement order was sent to the Robert Aquadro trust which appeared to be the land-owner according to Mass GIS. The map is in error, and the actual land-owner will be confirmed before another letter is sent.
- Follow up on letter sent to Andrew Mathers of 66 Nash Hill Road for brush cutting: A letter was sent, but by the time it was received, Mr. Mathers had dug out half of the wetland, which is an old fire pond. He called the Commission and was cooperative. His desire was to restore the wetland to a fire pond since there are no hydrants on that section of road. J. Rogers urged him to talk to the fire department to determine if a fire pond would be valuable. The response from the fire department was semi-supportive. Mr. Mathers was required to back-blade the excavated soil across the lawn, seed it, and lay out erosion controls. He will be provided with information about how to apply for a permit for full excavation. Commissioners ratified the Cease and Desist order.
- Follow up on 16 South Street: The McGills have a plan in place with 3 zones set up and a list of plants and maintenance. The site was just seeded so no signs of growth as yet. Shrub planting will be done in the spring. Commissioners agreed that giving a required plant count and another clear list of acceptable plants would assist in the McGills' planning and ensure that restoration is sufficient.

Discussion of new potential violations: none

Discussions:

- Follow up on Main Street/Hatfield Road solar replication area: The replication area has been dug out and wetland soil is being added. Robin Casioppo, a from GZA went to the site on behalf of the Commission to look at erosion controls, soils, and depth of excavation. She will return in a week to approve the plants and to verify that they were planted correctly. Adam Christie from Pro-tech asked about getting a partial COC so that control of the site can be transferred to the owner. R. Casioppo is working with with him to get a contract for the required two years of monitoring of the replication area and to set up a walk-through final inspection to determine if there are any tasks left to do.
- Habitat Management grant: Anyone who has the time and energy to pursue it is free to do so.
- Shared conservation agent: A second meeting is being planned. We need to figure out financing by the town.

- Any more FAQ's to add to web site? A suggestion was made to look at other towns' websites for ideas.
- Follow up on Carolyn Dubois' bridge work, 92 Ashfield Road: Ms. DuBois' engineer met with J. Rogers and Mark Stinson of the DEP. They spoke about the desire to fix the river bank and concluded that the best plan of action is to focus on protecting the bridge rather than the entire river bank. Mr. Stinson explained the permitting challenges.

Other business, including discussion of issues:

Next Meeting: November 9.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission