



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
January 11, 2024
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present – Mustafa Sezgin, Agalita Energy

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

RDA: Removing chain link fence along the stream at the Public Safety Complex, Town of Williamsburg

The chain link fence runs along the stream behind the Public Safety Complex. Posts are embedded in concrete. It is in bad shape, with trees and invasives growing through it. JR had met with Bill Sayre, Jean O’Neil, Tariq Abu-Jaber, and Highway Chief Dan Banister about how best to remove the fence. Two options were discussed. Posts could be cut at the base, reducing soil disturbance but leaving behind metal bits and sharp edges, as well as the large balls of concrete. The preferred option is to cut the fence in sections, use a small excavator to pull out the posts, and then fill in the resulting holes with topsoil, which will be seeded and mulched. Removal of an old telephone pole and tether-ball pole are included in the request. A second permit will be sought for invasive plant removal in the spring.

Though the work is in the river front, such maintenance is considered a minor exempt activity that is an improvement over current conditions. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to issue a Negative 2 finding with the following conditions:

- The Commission shall be notified in advance of removal of vegetation.
- Any equipment will be used during appropriate conditions: frozen or dry ground.
- All debris will be removed from the site.
- Native shrubs and trees entangled in the fence will be cut at the base rather than dug out when possible. Topsoil will be added and leveled to fill any resulting holes.
- Bare soil will be seeded and mulched.
- Straw or jute fabric will be laid down on any bare areas that are vulnerable to wash out.

NOI: Extension of Order of Conditions for 10 River Road, Agalita Energy, Mustafa Sezgin

Agalita has two OOCs: one for the solar project and another for rebuilding the access on River Road. The original project OOC expires in February, 2024. Agalita would like to extend that Order for two years, as the planning permit has been. The Interconnection Group Study through National Grid has been completed but final paper work with costs for upgrading the grid is still in process. The result is anticipated by the end of 2024. Construction will take approximately 6 months but there may be

supply chain delays as well. If the costs from National Grid are too high, the project will be abandoned.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to extend the OOC through February, 2026.

COC: none

Enforcements:

- Follow up on 58 Ashfield Road, unpermitted bridge reconstruction on a right of way owned by Lawrence O'Connell, currently living in Florida: Mr. O'Connell was friendly and cooperative, and invited Commissioners to visit the site. Commissioners agreed that a visit at this time was not necessary.
- Follow up on disturbance of protected wetlands at Beaver Brook Golf Course: Work seems to be on-going. The Commission will reach out to Natural Heritage and DEP for assistance.
- Follow up on 94 Ashfield Road bridge reconstruction: Construction of ramp has been delayed again due to contractor schedule.
- Follow up on 16 South Street, McGill, work in the river front area. Commissioners agreed that revisiting the site reminding the owners that:
 - the parcel is a resource area even if not yet planted
 - no machinery is to be parked in the resource area
 - a plan that was agreed upon was for their benefit to avoid an official violationA refreshed plan showing the planting zones and acceptable plant list will be made available.
- Follow up on 74 Village Hill, Hodges. The clean-up is completed, the temporary bridge has been removed, all excess soil has been removed, and seeding is complete. A site visit will be made when the owners request a close out of the permit.

Discussion of new potential violations: none

Discussions:

- Update on shared Conservation Agent: Another meeting is scheduled to discuss options on January 18. MM will attend. If the Commission wants to pursue funding from the town for either the shared agent or a wetlands consultant on as as needed basis, a request should be sent to the Select Board, which will then be sent to the Finance Committee.
- Follow up on moving forward with a bylaw: JR will review the latest draft. MM will ask KP Law or Emily Stockman to review.
- 6 Goshen Road, Mr. Laurin, flooding and canal breach. Though the land is privately owned, we would like to help the Laurins find the owners of the land the canal is located on. The canal may be controlled by an easement held by a third party.

Other business, including discussion of issues:

- Robin Casioppo from GZA signed a two-year contract and plan for monitoring the wetland replication at the Hatfield Street solar array. Two site visits, memos, a report to the Commission, and a request for a COC are included in that contract. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the monitoring contract. Protech will send a check to the town, which will hold it to pay GZA.

Minutes: none approved

Next Meeting: February 8, 2024.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission