



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

## Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2018

**Commissioners present – *Marci Caplis, Mary Dudek, Todd Lynch, and Andrew MacLachlan***

**Members of the public present – Emily Stockman**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm**

Discussion:

1. **Invasive Plant Treatment on Hall property.** The Commission paid will pay Lincoln Fish \$2,350 for his initial 3 stage treatment. This includes cutting large invasives and spraying stumps with herbicide, foliar spraying smaller invasives with herbicide, and returning for a follow-up treatment. The Commission has enough money in funds to pay for a round of treatment this year. Todd Lynch will call the DCR about obtaining matching funds for the next fiscal year.
2. **Beaver Flooding on Depot Road.** Emily Stockman presented the formal plan made with landowner Liv Petroff of Depot Road for dealing with beaver flooding resulting from upstream dams.
  - Trapper Ken Bushy received a permit via email to set traps on Joe Wright Brook. He met with Liv right after the traps were set. The dam in question impacts three other properties, and one of the property owners was not willing to sign off on trapping.
  - The Petroff house is sitting in the floodplain, and the land is ideal beaver habitat. This flooding situation is not going away. Ms. Stockman feels a water leveller would not work in this situation,

Marcianna Caplis   C. Todd Lynch   Joseph Rogers   Mary Dudek   Andrew MacLachlan  
Williamsburg Conservation Commissioners  
Melinda McCall, Commission Secretary

which is a shallow meandering stream. She proposes a partial breach of the dam, by removing branches by hand. There would be some turbidity from the released mud, but it would be inconsequential if the process moves slowly. Todd Lynch suggested full removal of branches from the site to discourage rebuilding and because of the recent pattern of intense storms, a large flood could wash out the dams and release a large quantity of mud. Ms. Stockman agreed with that idea, and stated that partial removal could lean toward a higher percentage of removal. She could also change the language to “slow and incremental” removal.

- Lashway Logging, the upstream abutter, is willing to write a letter giving access to people to go in and assess the dam situation. When Ms. Petroff sees the water level rising, she can call the professionals involved and they can examine the stream for beaver activity. She feels relieved to have a plan and a procedure in place.
- Document from DEP is in the file.
- Emergency Certification is the way to go. The document from DEP does not place limits on the number of times emergency certifications can be used. Only one commissioner has to be on a site visit, and Ken Bushy can send color photos to document flooding. Approval must be ratified at the next Conservation Commission meeting. The Commission requested permission for commissioners to access the properties in question in order to judge the extent of the flooding be added to the plan. Note: The Board of Health permits trapping. ConComm approval is for working on dams.

**3. Nehring property.** It is time to do some site visits to see if required work has been done. Ms. Caplis will email Emily Stockman to find out how things are going on her end, and will email Mr. Nehring to set up a visit.

**4. Dog signs.** Four needed for Horse Mountain, “No dogs allowed per town ordinance.” Four signs saying, “Dogs must be leashed per Conservation Commission,” two each for Briar Hill and Gere Hill.

## **5. Other business.**

Marcianna Caplis   C. Todd Lynch   Joseph Rogers   Mary Dudek   Andrew MacLachlan  
Williamsburg Conservation Commissioners  
Melinda McCall, Commission Secretary

- Mary Dudek showed a picture of a steep eroding bank with clay on the hill behind Mama T's. The water pooling at the bottom is discolored. She questioned what was on top of the hill, but aerial photography revealed nothing.
- Russ, from the Board of Health, mentioned that 5 or 6 trees were taken down behind the Snack Bar. Not sure who owns the land. Mr. Lynch will check OLIVER, Ms. Caplis will check with the assessor's office.
- There has been a lot of tree cutting on the golf course across from Bread Euphoria. there had been a cutting plan, but the DEP halted the cutting because it went beyond the plan. Ms. Caplis will contact Sean to get more information.
- Ms. Dudek asked if the Commission is providing recommendations about removing the dam behind the Brassworks. The answer is, if the plan is approved, we would take a look.
- Support was expressed for adding signage on streams or other town sites to educate the public and to highlight our resources.
- Follow up visits to check on success of remediation plantings should take place two growing seasons after planting. It is time to remind Dunkin Donuts that it is time to take a look for noting compliance.
- Minutes from April meeting were approved.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:25.**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Melinda McCall  
 Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission