



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2018

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

Members of the public present – *Charles Miller, Mark Sarafin, and Paul Zononi*

Meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm. Mr. MacLachlan arrived at 8:15.

- Reviewed RDA filed by Charles Miller for driveway work at 86 Ashfield Road. The plan calls for adding crushed gravel at either end of the newly reconstructed bridge crossing the river. The Commission found the work to be exempt, a negative 5, maintenance of an existing driveway.
- Reviewed RDA filed by Mark Sarafin on behalf of the McQuestons for foundation repair work on a barn near the 100 foot buffer line. There is a potential to use some of the fill from the work for road repair in the buffer zone,. There are also plans to trim some trees near the barn. The Commission found the work to be a negative 3 (work is within the Buffer zone but will not alter that area) subject to an added condition to include erosion controls such as straw wattles which should remain in place until after the site is stabilized.

- Paul Zononi of the town Agricultural Committee requested permission to place a memorial bench in the Briar Hill conservation area. Commission approved plan.
- Discussion of logging of dead and dying Hemlock on Ashfield Road on land owned by Peter Shumway. Bill Turner of the Highway Department would like to cut more than the 50% of trees allowed in the Forest Cutting Plan because the trees along the road have become destabilized and are at a greater risk of falling into the road. Trees along the road are exempt because of public safety concerns. The Commissioners agreed that they cannot make a ruling since trees are on private property. They suggested that Mr. Turner speak with DCR, since they approved the original cutting plan. Ms. Caplis will look at the situation with Mr. Turner, and forward her observations/concern on to DCR.
- Discussion of transfer of Nehring property enforcement to DEP. David Cameron from the DEP requested a brief summary of the case.
- Review of plans for Williamsburg/Goshen solar array. It is being built in an old gravel pit and there is a long run of bare sand and gravel. The site needs to be graded. The engineering plan uses a terraced approach and the company, Dynamic Energy asked if the Commission would accept the concept in lieu of a design so that they could get started on the work. Dynamic Energy acknowledged the need for ongoing maintenance until the site is fully vegetated. The Commission agreed to the concept on condition of getting three questions answered.
 - Have the erosion controls been installed at the south end of the site?
 - Will this design be registered as a plan change on the original engineering plan?
 - Has the company been awarded a storm water prevention plan (SWPP)? The Commission would like to be notified of when the site is visited during significant rainfall events, and be given the right to accompany the inspector on those visits.

Ms. Caplis will contact the company.

- Follow up on dog signs. John Hoogstraten suggested that the trails committee should install the signs since they are in charge of the other signage. Joe Rogers will contact that committee.
- Review of Mountain Road reconstruction plans presented by engineering firm.. The commissioners reviewed the plans. Ms. Caplis will write the company telling them the commissioners appreciate receiving the information, currently have no questions, and would like to stay informed as the project progresses. Andrew M. suggests sharing the information with Mark Stinson with the DEP.

Minutes from July were accepted with changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission

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