



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020

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

Members of the public present – Priscilla Ross, Len Jekanowski

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

79 Depot Road, Request for COC (Certificate of Compliance): This property is for sale, but there is a lien on the deed from Orders of Conditions issued in 1985 for the construction of a bridge across the stream. Commissioners visited the site. The consensus was that there is no violation, but there is a risk of damming and erosion due to sediment piles six feet downstream from the bridge. The COC can be granted but the buyer needs to be informed of the risk and be given recommendations for correcting the situation. These recommendations include staking silt fence along the bank to prevent erosion. In addition, gravel built up along the top of the bank from years of snow plowing has destabilized the bank and killed vegetation. It was recommended that the bare slope be stabilized with landscape fabric and planted. The COC was approved and will be issued with an accompanying letter stating the recommended actions.

50 Ashfield Road: The Commission received a letter from the landowner, Ron Hodges, in response to the Cease and Desist order sent in October. Commissioners felt that Mr. Hodges did not understand the WPA and regulations. He will be sent Form 3, NOI, with the instructions and a letter explaining the requirements for working within 200 feet of a river. The letter will also recommend the use of a consultant to write a permissible plan.

Spring Newsletter: Articles are due soon. One idea is to give a nod to the Open Space Committee for the plan they are creating, and its positive impacts on the town's wetland and rivers.

Review of Meeting with Mark Stinson, DEP, about the planned Depot Road culvert: Mr. Stinson met with Ms. Caplis and Mr. MacLachlan to examine the site due to concerns about the need to downsize the project. He said that there is an allowance for best practicable projects that acknowledges budget limitations. He also said that the current situation prevents wildlife access across the river at this point due to scouring and steep shoulders. Repair or replacement of an adjacent culvert is on the wish list of the Greenway plan. The project may impact a culvert under a nearby driveway, and the owner should be notified of possible flow changes.

Minutes from November were accepted with changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission