



Williamsburg Conservation Commission  
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**Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021  
via Zoom**

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

**Members of the public present – , Charlene Nardi, Town Administrator; Dan Banister from Town Highway Dept.; Mark Stinson from DEP; Todd Clark, Audrey Beaulac, and Kimberly Peace from Hoyle Tanner; Robert Natario, Jung Phan, and David Goldstein from Mass DOT; Scott Jackson from the Whately Conservation Commission.**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm**

**Mountain Street Reconstruction:**

**Mountain Street will be reconstructed and widened to improve safety for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. A section of the road runs adjacent to the Mountain Street reservoir, requiring extra care in the development of plans, which are in the early stages of development.**

**This meeting was an informal introduction to the planned reconstruction. Representatives from MASS DOT, the engineering firm Hoyle Tanner, the Williamsburg Highway Department, DEP, and the Whately Conservation Commission were present. It was an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback relating to stormwater treatment and potential impacts on wetlands, as well as for DEP and the Commission to give guidance regarding permitting requirements. Planning is also being done in coordination with the Town of Whateley and the City of Northampton, which owns the reservoir.**

**Reconstruction includes 2.8 miles in Williamsburg, and 1.5 miles in Whately. These are considered two separate projects. The town lines meet at the reservoir.**

**The terrain is hilly. The road runs close to the reservoir and there is no space for**

treating runoff. Therefore, the runoff must be diverted to an area that does have space. Several options are under consideration. One is to angle the road away from the reservoir and construct grass swales to capture the water. Another is to build a closed drainage system with 2 best management practices (BMPs) in by the existing water treatment plant. This option requires the water to be pumped. A third option is to pump the water to a spot on the east side of the road, which is a shorter distance.

**Other important points:**

- The project is located in an outstanding water resources area, so work here must meet a different threshold than typical road work.
- Any plan will need approval from the Drinking Water Program for discharge.
- No plan would completely divert runoff from a big water event. However, the first inch of rain is the dirtiest and most important to capture.
- Massachusetts Environmental Protection (MEPA) may be triggered if many shade trees must be removed.
- A NOI that includes wetland replication areas will be required.
- The major existing culverts will not be widened. The minor culverts will be rebuilt.
- Bridge replacement could be broken out from the NOI.
- One concern for the town is the amount of water that may be diverted from Potash and Beaver Brooks.

The planning schedule is as follows.

- Meet with Northampton.
- Present initial plans to Whately.
- Public Informational Meeting presented by Mass DOT in Williamsburg in March.

The public portion of the meeting ended at 7:47. Commissioners agreed that this project is complicated, and the committee would benefit from hiring a specialist to review parts of the NOI once received.

**50 Ashfield Road violation, Ron Hodges:** Mr. Hodges has hired Jeff Smith to help with permitting his barn project. Ms. Caplis and Mr. Rogers met with Mr. Smith to discuss the situation.

**Main Street, Old Cumberland Farms:** Contaminated soil work begins January 25.

**Letter of Support requested by PVPC:** Commissioners appreciated the idea but

**rejected the offer because the Williamsburg Woodland Trails Committee already does a good job informing the public about the value of and access to trails. The cost and the time involved in participating in the program feels unnecessary and would require involving Town meeting or the town attorney.**

**Dogs on Horse Mountain: Hatfield requested that a commission member from Williamsburg attend a meeting to discuss the issue, but commissioners felt that it would be best for Hatfield to contact DEP. The Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission have already identified the property as a special place and banned dogs from the Williamsburg portion of the trail.**

**Minutes from December, 2020 were approved.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:32.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda McCall  
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission