



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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**Meeting Minutes
February 25, 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, Town Highway Dept.; Dan Lovett, Hill Engineers; Jim Hyslip, engineer.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Depot Road culvert replacement:

This meeting was a continuation from February 11. For more details about the project, please see minutes from that date.

The design team responded to questions and concerns posed by the Commission on February 11.

A brief history of the project was given to affirm that alternatives had been considered. The engineers then went over the twelve evaluation criteria on the Replacement Stream Crossing Evaluation worksheet. All criteria were met satisfactorily as improvements to existing conditions.

More questions were asked and answered:

- **Sediment retention and installation of the replacement culvert were clarified.**
- **The state grant for replacement was initially approved for a longer span. The Town Administrator confirmed that the grantor accepted the change in size.**
- **The bottom of the culvert will be seeded with two to three inches of rounded stone if a deficit is revealed.**
- **New England Wetland Conservation Mix was specified for reseeding, but there is concern about the amount of shade and possibility of heavy stream flow washing out seedlings. Commissioners suggested planting plugs of**

- woody species such as dogwood and willow for a sturdier option.
- The road will be banked, and runoff will flow directly into the stream as sheet flow that goes directly down the bank and into the stream.
- The work area was expanded as requested.
- Calculations show that the amount of affected area is below the threshold that would trigger a Water Quality Certification.
- Since the process of replacement will be addressed by the contractor, who has yet to be chosen, specific questions relating to the process will be outlined in the Order of Conditions.

This portion of the meeting ended at 7:57.

Commissioners voted to approve the project as proposed in the NOI with attached Special Conditions. The OOC will be compiled and submitted by Monday, March 1. The conditions will cover erosion controls, a requirement for a planting plan, oversight by a biologist or wetland scientist during the initial construction phase and dewatering, a preconstruction meeting with the contractor to review the OOC, removal of all debris, and leaving a natural stream bed.

Land Stewardship Guidelines: Mr. Lynch put together a list of guidelines that could be useful in deciding whether a property is appropriate for the Conservation Commission to hold Conservation Restrictions on when requested to. Ms. Caplis will share these guidelines with the Open Space and Woodland Trails committees for feedback.

Settlement with Dynamic Energy: Mr. MacLachlan joined members of local land trusts and a neighbor of the property in question to visit the 24 acre parcel of land to the west and south of the solar array. The settlement is worded so that Kestrel Land Trust owns the land, but a different entity must hold the Conservation Restriction. The Conservation Commission has been asked to hold that restriction, but there were concerns about possible future erosion. The erosion potential from an overflowing detention basin in the solar array has been reduced by the placement of a large corrugated tube that would carry the water to the stream below. This is likely a temporary fix.

The property is steep and beautiful forest land consisting of hemlock and mixed deciduous trees. It could be a good link to other properties such as the DAR and Briar Hill. No decision was made about accepting the CR.

Minutes from February 11, 2021 were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission