



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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**Meeting Minutes
July 8 , 2021
via Zoom**

Commissioners present – Marci Caplis, Andrew MacLachlan, and Melinda McCall

Members of the public present –Adam Christie, John Henderson-Adams, and Mathew Braccio from Protech Energy Systems; Greg Brawders from Western Earthworks.

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm

Hatfield Street Solar Array: Geotechnical issues were discovered on the Penny Johnson side of the stream crossing. In order to get better information about the presence of ledge and bedrock for road building, a drill rig is required. Since there is a possibility that some blasting will be required for the road building, the earthworks need to be done before the permanent bridge goes in to prevent damage to the integrity of the bridge from blasting.

A temporary bridge would be in place for three to four months while the road and switchbacks are being constructed. The original idea of using a timber mat bridge would not accommodate the heavier equipment and an alternative plan using an ACROW steel beam bridge was proposed. This bridge would sit on pre-formed concrete abutments and steel beams. A temporary gravel road would be constructed adjacent to the location of the planned permanent road. Protech may need to go back to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals for permission to realign the road.

Steps for installation would be grading the approach, laying geo fabric, laying gravel, placing concrete blocks, placing steel beams. These materials would be placed adjacent to the approved culvert footings using a crane, which can sit 50 feet away, thus not impacting with the stream. The concrete would sit on the surface; no excavation is necessary. Removing the bridge reverses these same steps.

The ACROW bridge has a clearance of about 36 inches above the stream channel and adjacent wetlands. A tarp will be attached under the bridge to catch dust. Compost filter socks will run along either side of the stream to capture sediment. Twelve inch pipes will channel the stream flow temporarily, and provide the needed dewatering of the stream bed. This system may negate the need for coffer dams.

- The ACROW bridge would be sufficient as the final bridge, except the clearance is too low to meet stream crossing standards, therefore it will need to be removed.
- If blasting is necessary, Protech will inform the Commission.
- It will take eight to ten weeks to build the permanent bridge, blocking work across the stream.
- The third party reviewer from GZA will observe the installation of the temporary bridge.
- Installation date depends on the bridge rental company.
- There will be much more traffic than originally planned for a temporary bridge. The grade will also be steeper since the temporary bridge sits lower than the final bridge. Western Earthworks is using water bars and other erosion controls which are working well so far in this rainy spring and summer.
- The commission received the requested \$4000 to pay for the third party review by Robin Casioppo of GZA.

89-93 Main Street: the Commission received no response from any of the parties contacted.

130 Old Goshen Road vandalism: Commissioner MacLachlan met with a concerned citizen to look at the vandalism site reported. People are hammering out quartz crystals and bits of gold from rocks on a very steep, barley vegetated hillside above Devil's Den. There is evidence of campfires and building debris from temporary structures. It is unclear who owns that land, either the Boy Scouts or Hull Forest Products. Inquiries are being made with Sally Loomis of Hilltown Land Trust, Hull Forest Products, and the Boy Scouts.

Beals Certificate of Compliance (COC): A site visit showed successful planting of the resource area, meeting the conditions of the Beals Order of Conditions, the Commission granted a COC.

Logging on Richardson land: No logging plan was submitted, and the logging is using access points on a neighboring property. That property owner has died and the executrix of the estate is concerned about the activity. A verbal agreement may

have been made between Mr. Richardson and the deceased land owner, but there is no record. Ms. Caplis will contact Sean Libbey at DCR with the concerns.

Beaver Brook Golf Course: The Commission has not received proof of filing of the Order of Conditions with the Registry of Deeds. There is some evidence of tree planting as per the OOC, but mowing is still being done up to the stream bank. Ms. Caplis will contact Jeff Smith, who worked with Beaver Brook on the plan to inform him of these two issues.

Minutes from June 10 were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission