



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
141 Main Street, P.O. Box 447
Haydenville, Massachusetts 01039-0447
Phone: 413-268-8416 Fax: 413-268-8409
conservation@burgy.org

**Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021
via Zoom**

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

Members of the public present –John Warner

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

RDA for tree removal at 9 Valley View Road, John Warner:

Mr. Warner is planning to remove 10 trees, 9 of which are white pine. They are about 140 feet tall and unstable. One other tree has fallen into the brook, and two of the trees in question are leaning over a neighbor's barn. All are standing in a wetland.

He has contracted with Cotton Tree Service for the removal. The plan is to lay down mats and bring in a 30 ton crane with a long bucket attachment. The crane will stay on top of the hill in the backyard, and will not impact the wet area. All brush and logs will be brought to the street for removal.

The Commissioners asked that no brush be left in the brook, and if the lawn gets torn up despite the mats, that straw bales be put in place to catch sediment. However, the lawn swales down to the house, so erosion into the stream is unlikely.

Commissioners issued a Negative 2 determination.

Third party review by Robin Casioppo of GZA:

Ms. Casioppo reviewed the temporary bridge installation activities at the 95 Main Street / 5 Hatfield Street Pro-Tech Solar project, and determined that the work was done in accordance with the requirement of the Order of Conditions.

A question arose as to how the site fared during the recent heavy rains. It was noted that the OOC did not include copying the Commission on the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) reports. Ms. Caplis will reach out to Adam Christie of Western Earthworks and request to be included on all future reports, as well as to be sent all past reports

44 Village Hill, proposed building site, Sherlock:

Mr. Rogers and Mr. MacLachlan walked out to the proposed site. It was a nice field with no sign of wetland. He recommended that Mr. Sherlock file a RDA to get an official ruling.

130 Old Goshen Road vandalism:

A concerned citizen sent the Commission photos and information about vandalism along the west Branch of the Mill River near Devil's Den. Ms. Caplis sent a letter to the landowner informing him of the violations and noting that he is liable. The landowner put a no-trespass order out immediately. The Williamsburg police and the Massachusetts Environmental Police were notified. Officer Wright of the Williamsburg Police went to the site, and was familiar with the alleged perpetrator, who was soon served with the no-trespass order.

Logging on Richardson land:

A new logging plan was filed with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR.) Changes were made after the executrix of the estate of the neighboring property filed a complaint with DCR about the logging using access points on that property.

50 Ashfield Road garage replacement, Hodges:

Part of the OOC called for plantings along stream. These plantings are not yet visible from the road. Ms. Caplis will reach out to Jeff Smith of Prime Engineering to ask for an update on the project and the restoration plantings.

River Road Solar Installation:

Joe Shanahan of the Clean Energy Company has asked for a new OOC with signatures for filing at the Registry of Deeds. Ms. McCall is gathering those and will send with a reminder that the Commission expects to receive proof of recording.

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 of Prime Engineering who worked with Beaver Brook on the plan to inform him of these two issues, and ask for an update on the project.

Minutes from July 8 were approved with changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda McCall

Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission