



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2022
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present – Jenn and David Gazillo

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Discussion of site visit to 88 Main Street, Suzy Fortgang and David Nehring, RDA

Homeowners wish to winterize an existing porch. Mr Rogers visited the site and reported that the existing porch is in the riverfront regulated area. The work would be limited and additional foundation work would be dug by hand. The owners also wish to add a porch to a different side of the house, away from the river. The RDA has been submitted but is brief. At the June meeting, the Commission will go over GIS maps to clarify the resource area.

Discussion of Site Visit, 10B Eastern Avenue, Gazillo:

Commissioners visited the site to look at both the water flow issue and the work done in the wetlands in order to come up with solutions. There is an extensive wetland behind the property, and the Gazillos reported that their property is getting wetter each year as the wetland encroaches. Mixed stone debris has been spread over the lawn area with the intentions of building up part of the yard to combat the changes and spreading loam to preserve a play area. The Commission reaffirmed that work was done in the resource area and must be remediated. Commissioners will visit the site again to clarify the wetland boundaries and help the Gazillos formulate a plan of action that will result in an improved play area and intact wetlands. Commissioners will request the Highway or Water Departments check the downstream culverts for blockages.

Discussion of Hall property boundary marking:

The abutters did not get notified of the marking and several got worried that cutting was planned, and upset by the size and intensity of the red marks. Commissioner Rogers talked with the concerned parties, and one of the abutters plans to tone down the marks. In the future, abutters and the Burgy Trails Committee will be notified, and marking size and color will be specified.

Discussion of future conservation work:

The Commission has funds available to use for property maintenance. It was decided to get the boundaries of the Gere Hill and Briar Hill properties marked, offer to pay for a sign at Horse Mountain explaining the history of the site, and to pay for clearing bittersweet on 50 Chesterfield Road, a town property that is near the Gere Hill site. However, since that lot is not under the auspices of the Commission, the Select Board will be asked to authorize the work.

Discussion of actual and proposed work at Beaver Brook golf course:

The Order of Conditions was recently filed with the Registry of Deeds. It is time for commissioners to visit the site to see if the Order of Conditions has been met, as it is valid for just one more year and may need to be extended.

Update on the Public Safety Complex:

Robert Todisco of P3 notified the Commission of the project status. Interior work has started and the actual site work will begin at the end of May.

Unpermitted clearing at 11 East Main Street:

Clearing has been done along the riverbank at 11 East Main Street. The situation will be investigated and the people involved will be asked to join the next meeting.

Erosion pockets on East Main Street:

Storm water runoff on East Main Street is eroding sections of the steep bank of the East Branch of the Mill River. Some edges of the road are in danger of collapsing. The town administrator and highway department will be notified, with a reminder to bring any work plans before this committee.

Dam removal at the corner of Adams and Depot Road:

Commissioners discussed a potential pro-bono proposal to remove a small dam.

Update on Solar Array, River Road:

Work has been delayed and the Order of Conditions expires in 6 months.

Update on trees growing out of retaining wall behind the Meekin's Library:

Though it would be a simple task to approve the removal, the wall is in river front and Natural Heritage protection. Therefore, permitting is more complicated.

Minutes from April 14 were approved as amended.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission