



Williamsburg Conservation Commission
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Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2022
via Zoom

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

Members of the public present – Nick Caccamo, Town Administrator; Elizabeth Wroblicka, Kestrel Land Trust; Sally Loomis, Hilltown Land Trust

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

COC, Town of Williamsburg, culvert replacement on Depot Road:

After viewing the site, Commissioners agreed that the work was done in accordance with the Order of Conditions except for one rough spot protected by rip rap. There is concern that a heavy rain could wash out soil and undercut the wing wall of the new culvert. Stream conditions have changed as a result of the work and it may take a few years for the stream bed to adjust. This concern was passed on to Dan Banister, Highway Department Superintendent. The sediment that had spilled from the failed silt bag has been cleaned up.

Commissioners approved the COC unanimously.

Conservation Restriction for Hull/Dynamic Energy land.

Elizabeth Wroblicka, for Kestrel Land Trust and Sally Loomis of Hilltown Land Trust (HLT), presented information about a 20 acre parcel of land that has been deeded to HLT as part of the settlement between the state and Dynamic Energy for the environmental damage from erosion and siltation at the solar site. HLT has requested that the Conservation Commission supporting the conservation restriction for the parcel by which will be protected with a primary focus on preserving wildlife habitat. There is currently no public access nor road frontage, and the site is quite steep. There are some

trails, and there is a possibility that HLT could obtain some adjacent land that would allow creation of a public access. The Commission recommended preserving the property for low-impact conservation since there are endangered and other significant species on the site.

Commissioners unanimously approved signing the Municipal Certification form. The signed form and a letter of support will be sent to the Select Board for their approval at their October 20 meeting.

Update on 74 Village Hill:

Commissioners visited the site and saw the testing grid that was set up to methodically find areas of contamination. The NOI will be heard at the next meeting, October 27.

Update on Mama T's:

Commissioners visited the site to see if actions recommended in the Determination of Applicability had been taken. They found that the junk had been cleaned up, grass was planted, and the site was stable. Though the recommended buffer zone was being mowed, Commissioners felt satisfied that the intent was met.

Update on proposed house lots on Ashfield Road, Bob Sherlock:

Commissioners visited the site and found that the narrow strip of level land had several intermittent streams that channeled run-off from the steep hillside above the property. Any development would require a wetlands delineation. Mr. Sherlock could submit an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) to create a permittable building envelope. Commissioner Rogers will follow up with Mr. Sherlock.

Question about phragmites and bittersweet control in a stormwater basin for the Deer Haven Home Owners' Association in Haydenville:

Vegetation Management specialist Matt Verson asked for confirmation that the stormwater basin was not subject to the state's wetlands regulations. Commissioners visited the site and found that the basin is not connected to any natural wetlands and, therefore it is not under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Maintaining the basin should be part of the development plan and addressed in an Operations and Maintenance plan.

Update on Adams Road repaving:

Commissioners visited the site and found that paving was complete, erosion controls

were in place, rip rap was placed at low spots along the edge and in the in the swale that runs along a steep section, and at drainage areas. The highway crew were digging out the catch basin and culvert in order to improve their function.

Adding alternates to the Conservation Commission:

Commissioner Caplis reached out to two people who might be interested in being alternates, but neither responded.

Minutes from September 8 were approved as amended.

Next Meeting: October 27

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda McCall
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission