



Williamsburg Conservation Commission  
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## **Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2019**

**Commissioners present** - Marci Caplis, Mary Dudek, Todd Lynch, Andrew MacLachlan, and Joe Rogers

**Members of the public present** - Jeff Smith, Prime AE Group; Sally Loomis and Marquelle Smith, Open Space and Recreation Committee

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm**

**NOI for Beaver Brook Golf Course.** Jeff Smith presented the initial, revamped NOI for proposed work at Beaver Brook Golf Course. Commissioners made a site visit earlier in the month. The plan calls for additional cart paths, replacing a crushed culvert with a bridge, and replacing/repairing existing bridges.

- Most bridge repairs/replacements have already been made.
- There was a question about replacement bridges meeting stream water crossing standards. The banks are steep, and the span of the bridge is beyond the banks, so the bridges do not impact streamflow. The bridges do impact the floodplain, however, and the plan is to remove 4 cubic feet from around the culvert to make up lost flood storage. Where new bridges were placed above the old ones, the old planks that are closer to the water need to be removed. It is possible to do this by lifting metal bridges from one side to get access to the wood beneath. One condition is that debris is not left in the stream from the removal. The Commission requested a table be added to the NOI to show that bridges meet standards.
- Cart paths are close to the resource area, which concerns DEP. However, this is really redevelopment, and the intention is to keep

Marcianna Caplis   C. Todd Lynch   Joseph Rogers   Mary Dudek   Andrew MacLachlan  
Williamsburg Conservation Commissioners  
Melinda McCall, Commission Secretary

- carts on the paths, which will reduce impact on the resource area. A corrected plan, a table showing the exact number of new and old paths, and the length of new paths, and a descriptive paragraph need to be added to the NOI. The description should include the conditions on either side of the path. Unmowed land would discourage off-path driving. The golf course could issue fines for off-roading.
- The plan calls for reducing cutting of vegetation in bvw and river bank to once annually. This will be done by hand. Commissioners requested that flags be moved out farther from the water, and also suggested replacing flags with permanent wooden stakes placed every 50 to 100 feet to denote no cutting zone. They also requested that this should be stated clearly in the Operations and Maintenance plan.
  - The stream is classified as a cold water fishery, and thus should be kept shaded as much as possible.
  - It was agreed that the numerous projects can be categorized into three types of activities in order to minimize fees and focus on improving conditions since this project is seen as redevelopment.
    - Replacing bridges
    - Replacing culverts
    - Constructing cart paths
  - The plan for the culvert replacement is to isolate a section of the stream during dry conditions, siphon water around the work zone, place a bridge on the bank. This work should improve stream flow. The tree lodged up against the culvert will need to be removed. Any mussels or other creatures found during excavation will be moved downstream. A wetland scientist will need to be on hand during the excavation and reshaping of the stream bank.
  - Mr. Duval, the owner would like to plant trees to replace the ones that are failing. This should be added to the NOI.
  - Delineations are difficult to do on disturbed land without digging soil test holes. Rather than disturbing the golf course, commissioners would like to see reestablished vegetated corridors along the streams as much as possible. This would provide the required improvements as well as add shade for the stream. Shrubs should be added as well.
  - As an additional improvement, it was recommended that the plan create a set of no-mow zones and plant more native trees.
  - Operations and Maintenance section should include no-mow zones, minimizing use of chemicals.

- The initial NOI submitted to DEP will be withdrawn.
- The hearing was continued to January 9 or February 13.

**Initial discussion about the Conservation Commission's role in the Open Space plan:** Marquelle Smith and Sally Loomis shared a rough draft of goals for the new plan. They will return on January 9th to continue the conversation.

**Discussion about violation at 86 Ashfield Road.** The unpermitted bridge work has reduced the size of the stream and the ability of water to pass underneath. There is concern about the safety of the community downstream. Two options were considered and will be sent to DEP for feedback.

- The structure has not been permitted and needs to be removed. A wetlands consultant needs to be nominated and presented to the Commission to design a demolition plan.
- Hire a consultant and engineer who can permit or modify the structure to meet the stream crossing standards.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda McCall  
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission