



Williamsburg Conservation Commission  
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## **Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2020**

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

**Members of the public present** - Dan Bannister, Highway Department; Charlene Nardi, Town Administrator; Jim Hyslip, engineer; Jeff Smith, Prime AE; Sally Loomis, Open Space Committee

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

**Continuation of NOI for Depot Road Culvert replacement.** Jim Hyslip presented updated plans. Currently there is a five-foot-diameter pipe under the road that is crumbling and undersized. This will be replaced by a twenty-three-foot minimum diameter pipe. There is a step-wise plan for diverting water around the work site while footings are being installed and banks are recontoured and stabilized. Final details will be developed after a contractor is hired. Commissioners gave some suggestions for writing a strong NOI, including adding a construction schedule that stipulates that work must be continuous. Commissioners agreed that plan is ready to give to the state in preparation for putting the job out to bid. The hearing was continued.

**Continuation of NOI for Beaver Brook Golf Club.** Jeff Smith presented an addendum to the original NOI that addressed questions and suggestions made by the commissioners at the previous hearing. Some of the changes include removal of old decking from underneath bridge 4, detailed steps for culvert replacement, widening the no-cut zone along wetland borders, and a detailed list of plant material. Further input from the Commission includes additions to the list of plant materials, adding a planting plan and density, and including a brief Operations and Management plan with details about

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

how atypical maintenance situations will be handled. It was agreed that the plan can detail just the wetlands in the work area rather than on the entire parcel. Once Mr. Smith has incorporated suggested edits into the addendum, he can send them in for review to be finalized at the next meeting. The hearing was continued.

**Discussion of draft updated Open Space Plan.** Sally Loomis, of the Open Space Committee, joined the meeting to get ideas and feedback from commissioners for the next version of the town's Open Space Plan. This plan is being created in tandem with the Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP). By law the plan must be updated every seven years, and must be done in order for the town to apply for grants for land acquisitions.

Information and goals that are going to be added:

- Best management practices for land management
- planned greenway and park
- connecting Williamsburg's trails and greenways to those in neighboring towns.
- regional cooperation and connectivity for humans and wildlife as well as water system management.
- Wetlands By-Law (proposed)
- Alternative Energy guidelines (proposed)

Commissioners' suggestions and concerns are:

- how to list Chapter 61 lands
- an inventory of ecological communities for conservation of important areas. Much has been done already by UMass and The Nature Conservancy but needs to be collected. Then Williamsburg can focus on filling in the gaps.
- educational outreach about cultivating crops such as ginseng and mushrooms in the forest environment.
- in-house GIS to overlap with the Assessor's map so that the Commission can target information to people with resource areas on their property.
- better management of the lands we steward.

### **Other Business**

- **Request for information about hunting on municipal and land trust land.** A TerraCorps service member is compiling information. The commissioners know only about the parcels under their

stewardship. Of those, only Gere Hill allows hunting. Ms. Caplis will reply. It was suggested that this information be added to the CC website and the three sites where hunting is prohibited should be posted.

- Commissioners began reviewing the draft proposal and will continue at a later date.

**Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda McCall  
Secretary - Williamsburg Conservation Commission