



EAST LONGMEADOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: February 26, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: School Committee Conference Room

East Longmeadow High School, 180 Maple St., East Longmeadow, MA

MINUTES

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and called the roll.

CALL THE ROLL:

Present: Craig Jernstrom, Chair
Tom O'Brien, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Bosworth, Clerk
Anthony Zampiceni
Erin Lynch

Absent: Frances Corgnati

Staff Present: Constance Brawders, Planning & Community Development Director; Bethany Yeo,
Planning & Community Development Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 22, 2020

Motion to approve made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

February 12, 2020

Chair Craig Jernstrom advised three amendments to the minutes.

- 1) Add Site Plan Waiver to the vote for agenda item #6.
- 2) Add the following language to agenda item #9 *"Chair Craig Jernstrom requested public hearings and public meetings be posted on ELCAT as was done in the past"*
- 3) Notation of discussion regarding comment from the Commission on Site Plan Waivers before the Planning Board

Discussion ensued between Chair Jernstrom and the Planning & Community Development Director, Constance Brawders, concerning the Commission's opportunity to comment on applications going before the Planning Board [Discussion continued under agenda item 5].

Chair Jernstrom opined he would like public hearings on the Conservation Commission agenda to be posted to ELCAT as he believes it would increase awareness of matters before the Commission by the community.

Motion to continue approval of February 12, 2020 meeting minutes to March 11, 2020 made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

Applicant/owner John Trovato was not in attendance. Chair Craig Jernstrom reported the Commission had made scrivener's errors on the WPA Form 2 – Determination of Applicability. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth has corrected errors and reviewed the changes with the commissioners. It was determined by the Conservation Commission that the project falls under the Wetlands Protection Act and that the project is within the jurisdiction of the municipal wetlands bylaw of East Longmeadow. The Clerk also corrected the typo under Negative Determination which read "General Conditions" and now stands corrected to read, "Special Conditions". The Commissioners also noted there were no appeals received and therefore, no MA Department of Environmental Protection superseding order of conditions issued for the project. The applicant/owner, therefore, was entitled to be refunded the fee of \$120.00 the applicant/owner had mistakenly submitted to MA DEP.

Motion to approve the corrected WPA Form 2 Determination for 461 Chestnut Street made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

5. Review Plans for Comments for Planning Board from the Conservation Commission

Chair Craig Jernstrom stated he saw reasonable cause for the Commission to comment on Subdivision and Site Plan Review plans going before the Planning Board but opined Site Plan Review Waivers were not pertinent to review by the Commission. Planning & Community Development Director, Constance Brawders, explained the Site Plan Review Waivers come under Site Plan Review section of the Zoning Bylaw, and provided the enabling language sections of the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Bylaws referencing the Conservation Commissions duties. Ms. Brawders explained it is up to the Planning Board to decide if a site plan waiver is granted and such consideration is made during their public meeting. Furthermore, all plans are routed [bundled] together to departments and other boards for review and comment to be provided to the Planning Board. The purpose is to streamline the process, communicate with all involved in plans review, and to provide transparency in government. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth spoke in favor of providing comment on the Site Plan Review applications but not the Site Plan Review Waivers. Commissioner Erin Lynch observed it was a fine line to run between too little information sharing and too much. Ms. Brawders asked for clarification by Chair Jernstrom on his desired means of providing comment to the Planning Board from the Commission [i.e., memo, letter, verbal communication, etc.]. The Chair advised the Planning Director to continue sharing the Conservation Commission comment(s) with the Planning Board as she has been doing.

Chair Craig Jernstrom stated for the record that he has asked the Planning Director to remove all items under the Director's Report and did not see the need for additional agenda items, which had not passed by the Commission for review prior to the agenda being posted. Planning Director, Constance Brawders clarified as the Planning Director she was correct to convey information to the Commissioners in a public meeting via her Director's Report.

6. Director's Report

- Discussion of preparation and format of Meeting Minutes

Planning Director, Constance Brawders read into the record the required format for the meeting minutes as well as the deadline for approving minutes as presented in the MA State Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide.

- Discussion of publication of Notice in a newspaper of general circulation

"agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which protects the farmland for future agricultural use].

The Chair suggested looking to the Community Preservation Committee for funding. Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni, who is also appointed to the CPC, opined interest for a parcel of such size, location, and current use may not be advisable at this time.

Vice Chair Tom O'Brien concurred, yet opined there could be a viable use as athletic fields for the town. Vice Chair Tom O'Brien pointed out the Conservation Commission does not have adequate funds available to purchase the Fitzgerald land. Chair Jernstrom concurred the land remain undeveloped and suggested contacting the East Longmeadow Recreation Department to see if they are interested in purchasing the parcel as a playing field site.

Chair Jernstrom asked Clerk Bosworth to provide an update on the Open Space Plan. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth replied the plan had again been resubmitted to the State after additional information was requested.

Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth suggested creating signs for the Conservation lands in town and marking the trails. Commission member Anthony Zampiceni suggested starting with Brown Farm Trail.

Chair Jernstrom shared his desire to conduct evening site visits to Conservation lands for vernal pool certification when the weather warms.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni; second made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth and approved by a vote of five (5)- zero (0) at 7:16 PM.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2020


Clerk, Jeffrey Bosworth


Date