

EAST LONGMEADOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: February 12, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: School Committee Conference Room

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

MINUTES

Chair Craig Jernstrom opened the meeting at 6:01 PM and called the roll.

CALL THE ROLL:

PRESENT: Craig Jernstrom, Chair
Tom O'Brien, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Bosworth, Clerk
Anthony Zampiceni
Francis Corgnati

Absent: Erin Lynch

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 22, 2020

Chair Craig Jernstrom stated he would like more time to review the minutes.

Motion to continue approval of the January 22, 2020 meeting minutes to February 26, 2020 made by Commission member Anthony Zampiceni; second by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ratification Of Order Of Conditions: Robin Street/Smith Avenue** (Assessor's Parcel ID 3B-62-131) for the construction of a single family home with associated grading and appurtenances within the 100' Buffer Zone on a 0.23 +/- acre site. Applicant: Alston Graham, Graham's Construction Inc., 91 Ames Road, Hampden, MA 01036.

The Commission reviewed the Special Conditions and Order of Conditions for completeness. Planning & Community Development Administrative Assistant, Bethany Yeo inquired if any boxes needed to be checked off under the B. Findings section of the Order of Conditions. Discussion ensued with the Commission agreeing to check off boxes (i.) Storm Damage and (h.) Flood Control.

Motion to approve the Order of Conditions Mass DEP file # 150-0448 with the additions of boxes i. and h. checked off made by Vice Chair Tom O'Brien; second by Commission member Francis Corgnati and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

Motion to take agenda item #4 out of order made by Commission member Anthony Zampiceni; second by Vice Chair Tom O'Brien and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

4. Proposed Eagle Scout project to build benches for the Brown Trail presented by Jason Chartier

Eagle Scout candidate and Life Scout Jason Chartier, of Troop 179 was present for discussion. Mr. Chartier summarized his project which includes the design, creation, and placement of two benches on the Brown Trail. Mr. Chartier stated he would be fundraising for the project at Leone's Restaurant. The location of the benches will be near the existing exercise equipment on the trail which is located on flat, dry land. Mr. Chartier explained his goal for the project is to increase awareness and use of the Brown

Trail. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth suggested the use of a wood varnish to weather proof the benches and Vice Chair Tom O'Brien spoke in support of the proposed project as presented. Chair Craig Jernstrom also spoke in support of the proposed project and inquired if Mr. Chartier would be installing concrete footings or resting the benches on the ground. Mr. Chartier stated he would be resting the benches on the ground. Commission member Anthony Zampiceni inquired what type of material the benches will be made of. Mr. Chartier shared his plan to use pine to build the benches. Commission members Anthony Zampiceni and Jeffrey Bosworth suggested Mr. Chartier use either Teak or Oak instead to increase the longevity of the benches. Mr. Chartier stated he would take their recommendations under advisement.

Motion to approve the Eagle Scout Project as proposed made by Commission member Anthony Zampiceni; second by Commission member Francis Corgnati and approved by a vote of five (5) –zero (0).

PROJECT MONITORING:

2. Hidden Ponds Estates

Chair Craig Jernstrom explained no major changes have been made and the site is in good condition. The Chair also shared that members of the Conservation Commission had met with DPW to discuss erosion concerns with the Subdivision. Chair Craig Jernstrom reported Al Joyce had installed a heavier fabric in the catch basins as a result of that meeting.

3. Projects [See Project Monitoring spread sheet]

The Chair advised a new Notice of Intent will need to be filed in place of the expired Notice of Intent for Great Woods XII.

OTHER BUSINESS:

5. Director's Report

- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission District Local Technical Assistance request (DLTA) for Shared Use for Conservation Agent

The Planning & Community Development Director Constance Brawders reported her request for the services of a shared Conservation Agent via the District Local Technical Assistance offered by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission had been awarded. The Planning Director explained the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission would pay the shared Conservation Agent and bill the three respective municipalities for the hours the Conservation Agent had worked with their community. Chair Craig Jernstrom inquired if the grant was to fund the Conservation Agent or to develop the pilot program to hire the Conservation Agent. The Planning Director stated the grant funding would be to develop the pilot program.

The Commissioners asked to remain informed as the initiative progresses. Chair Craig Jernstrom asked what the purpose was for the Conservation Commission funds in the Planning Director's capital planning budget. The Planning Director stated the petitioned funds would be to pay Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for the services of the shared Conservation Agent. Commission member Francis Corgnati inquired if funding would come from one of the Conservation Commissions accounts. The Planning Director stated she did not have an answer at this time however, she is petitioning for \$15,000 for the services of a shared Conservation Agent in her capital planning budget. Vice Chair Tom O'Brien spoke in support of the initiative and to the Commissions need for a Conservation Agent. Chair Craig Jernstrom concurred. Commission member Francis Corgnati inquired if the Commission could partake in drafting the job description for the conservation agent. The Planning Director recommended the Commissioners individually send her their comments/suggestions regarding the Conservation Agent job description.

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

[As stipulated under Town of East Longmeadow Zoning Bylaw, 7.4 SITE PLAN REVIEW, 7.44 Procedure, 7.441 The Planning Board shall transmit to the Town Engineer, Conservation Commission, Board of Health and Building Inspector or other boards as deemed necessary copies of the application and site plan. The boards shall have up to forty five (45) days to make recommendations to the Planning Board.
<https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/597/Zoning-By-laws?bidId=>]

Case SITE 2020-1: East Longmeadow Veterans Memorial –Request by applicant for Site Plan Review for construction of proposed Veterans Memorial located at the East Longmeadow Council on Aging at 328 North Main Street (Assessor’s Parcel ID 13- A1-0) on an overall 3.748 +/- acre site in the Commercial zoning district. Applicant: Mary McNally, Town Manager. Representative: Terry Glusko, Chairman, East Longmeadow Veterans Memorial Committee, 328 N. Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

SPRW 2020-6: Pursue Wellness –Request by applicant for Site Plan Review Waiver for a health and wellness business at 124 Shaker Road, Suite B (Assessor’s Parcel ID 28A-3-69) on a 0.47 +/- acre site in the Business zoning district. Applicant: Cynthia Kennedy, 124 Shaker Road, Suite B, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

The Commission discussed the following cases and unanimously determined both projects fell outside of their jurisdiction.

Motion to provide comment to the Planning Board that SITE 2020-1 and SPRW 2020-6 are non-jurisdictional made by Vice Chair Tom O’Brien; second by Conservation Commission Anthony Zampiceni and approved by a vote of five (5) - zero (0).

Motion to take agenda item #10 out of order made by Commission member Francis Corgnati; second by Commission member Anthony Zampiceni and approved by a vote of five (5)- zero (0).

10. Discussion of acquisition of land located at Hampden Road (Assessor’s Parcel ID 90-1-1) as proposed by Keith H. and Kerisa P. Fitzgerald, 28 Dartmouth Lane, East Longmeadow, MA 01028 (Cont. from January 22,2020).

Property owners Keith H. and Kerisa P. Fitzgerald (28 Dartmouth Lane, East Longmeadow, MA 01028) were present for discussion. Chair Craig Jernstrom thanked the Fitzgerald’s for making the land offer to Town as opposed to selling the land for development.

Kerisa Fitzgerald explained the back story behind their decision to offer the land to the Town and stated the lease to Mr. Pomeroy would be in place until, at least the end of the year. Mrs. Fitzgerald shared she had also approached abutters and farmers in town but to no avail. Vice Chair Tom O’Brien inquired if Mrs. Fitzgerald would be interested in the land continuing to be of agricultural use or conserved. Mrs. Fitzgerald confirmed. Chair Craig Jernstrom explained the current Land Acquisition Policy recommended against acquiring agricultural lands and reported the Conservation Commission had discussed updating the policy. Chair Craig Jernstrom shared his idea of the Conservation Commission acquiring the land to then lease it out to local farmers. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated she knew of an interested local farmer if the Commission moved in that direction. The Commission stated they would be in touch with Mrs. Fitzgerald.

7. Review of Conservation Commission Accounts 8204 Con Com / Program, 8203 Con Com / Land Acq, and 2901 Wetlands Protection

Planning & Community Development staff reported they were awaiting the monthly Conservation Commission Account report from the Accounting Director.

8. Review of RDA for Case RDA 2019-11: Request for Determination of Applicability for 461 Chestnut Street (Assessor's Parcel ID: 6-112-0) for the removal of four white pine trees on a 4.95 acre site subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and/or municipal Wetlands Bylaw. Applicant: John Trovato, 461 Chestnut Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

The Chair Craig Jernstrom stated he would like to table the matter to the next meeting February 26, 2020 to give him time to review comments made by Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider as well as to notify the property owner of the meeting agenda item should they want to be present for the discussion. Planning & Community Development staff explained the comments were in regard to the way the Determination form was completed by the Commission, rather than the determination itself.

Motion to continue the agenda item to February 26, 2020 made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth; second by Commission member Anthony Zampiceni and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).

9. Policies and Procedures of the Conservation Commission

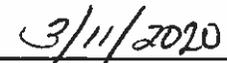
Chair Craig Jernstrom and Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth provided a revised submittal deadline schedule to the Planning & Community Development staff. Chair Craig Jernstrom requested public hearings and public meetings be broadcasted on the ELCAT screen as was done in the past. Chair Craig Jernstrom also requested correspondence pertinent to the Commission, such as the DLTA grant application is forwarded to Commissioners via email prior to the meetings when possible.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn made by Conservation Commission Anthony Zampiceni; second Conservation Commission Francis Corgnati and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0) at 7:08 PM.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2020



Clerk, Jeffrey Bosworth



Date