



EAST LONGMEADOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

Chair Craig Jernstrom opened the meeting at 6:11 PM and called the roll.

CALL THE ROLL

Present : Craig Jernstrom, Chair
Thomas O'Brien, Vice Chair – joined at 6:15 PM
Jeffrey Bosworth, Clerk—joined at 6:15 PM
Erin Lynch
Frances Corgnati
Anthony Zampiceni

Staff Present: Bethany Yeo, Acting Director of Planning & Community Development;
Ryan Quimby, IT Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 13, 2020- Amended

Chair Jernstrom explained the agenda item would be postponed to the June 24, 2020 meeting because a quorum was not present to vote, Erin Lynch having been absent from the May 13, 2020 meeting.

May 27, 2020

Motion to countinue to June 24, 2020 for further review made by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni; second by Commissioner Frances Corgnati and approved by a vote of four (4)-zero (0).

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUESTS

No submittals at this time

OLD BUSINESS

1. **WPA Enforcement Order #1: Hidden Ponds Estates Lots 19-20 (Mass DEP 150-0447)** for violation by Al Joyce, Rose-Bud Builders, P.O. Box 79, East Longmeadow, MA 01028 for removal of twelve (12) trees larger than 1-1/2" diameter outside the Limit of Work line and inadequate erosion controls.

Chair Jernstrom read into the public record an email he had sent on Thursday May 28, 2020 at 10:50 PM to Bethany Yeo, Acting Director, Commissioners Frances Corgnati, Jeffrey Bosworth, Erin Lynch, and Tom O'Brien as well as to developer, Al Joyce: *"To all, I was incorrect in stating that the street for zone was in lots 19&20, and 11 and others were in the 100' buffer zone. They are not. I apologize. However, based on my closer review if plans, The storm drains to the east of the basin are in the 100' buffer zone from lot 15.Craig"*.

Al Joyce was present for discussion and summarized the Assessment of Erosion & Sediment Control Report produced by Seth Taylor, Environmental Planner [GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. 1350 Main Street, Suite 1400, Springfield, MA 01103].

Mr. Taylor had made the following observations: Sediment from behind lots 19 & 20 have migrated beyond the established silt fence. A trench has been excavated to direct flows behind Lot 19. At this point straw bales and silt fence are present. Recommendation: In flow path, break apart straw bales and spread, install straw wattles along silt fence line. Al Joyce reported Mr. Taylor also made similar recommendations for lots 3, 4, and 11. Mr. Taylor also noted that once the grass on the tree belt grows

it would help the erosion issue. Al Joyce stated DPW had given him permission to hook up to a fire hydrate, which is how he is now watering the grass seed. Al Joyce shared that Mr. Taylor plans to do another site visit during a rain event to observe where the water is pooling.

Chair Craig Jernstrom asked for clarification on if Mr. Joyce was utilizing both erosion blankets *and* broken up straw bales. Mr. Joyce confirmed. Chair Jernstrom inquired if there was consideration given to Flocculants (typically used to promote clumping in sediment-laden water). Al Joyce stated Mr. Taylor had not considered Flocculants based on his report.

2. Request by applicant to discuss erosion control measures for Lot 3 Hidden Ponds Drive (Mass DEP File # 150-0428), Lot 4 Hidden Ponds Drive (Mass DEP File # 150-0446), and Lots 19-20 Redstone Drive (Mass DEP File # 150-0447). Applicant: Al Joyce, Rose-Bud Builders, P. O. Box 79, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

All concerns/ questions addressed during discussion of the previous agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

3. **Ratification of Restoration Plan – 116 Elm Street (Assessor Parcel ID 25-116-A)** for violation by Patricia A. Aleks and Evelyn Vecchiarelli of 177 Vineland Ave, East Longmeadow, MA 01028 for removal of all vegetation and grading within a Bordering Vegetative Wetland and riverfront area including approximately 2,100 sq. ft. of alternation within the river front area on the East and West sides of the river.

Chair Craig Jernstrom and Commissioner Erin Lynch stated based on their review of the restoration report/plan it is satisfactory. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth questioned if willow trees (8) were the best option for the location. John Godwin, landscaper was present for discussion and explained willow trees were chosen based on his observation that they are the predominate tree in the area along the Pecousic Brook. Mr. Godwin explained the eight (8) willow trees have been planted and are marked by stakes and should reach to 6-8' by the second year of the restoration project. Commissioner Erin Lynch spoke in favor of the willow tree selection. No further comment from the Commission.

Motion to ratify the restoration plan as proposed made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth; second by Commissioner Frances Corgnati and approved by roll call vote six (6)-zero (0).

4. **Ratification of Order of Conditions and Special Conditions for NOI 2020-2: 110 Somers Road** (Assessor's Parcel ID 39-30-C-2) for the removal of invasive plants, cutting of the understory shrub layer, and selective pruning of existing mature trees within the Buffer Zone on a 5.04 +/- acre site. Applicant: Brownstone Gardens III Inc. c/o Christopher Carr, 24 Deer Park Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028. (Continued from May 13, 2020)

Commissioner Frances Corgnati recused herself from the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest. Chair Craig Jernstrom suggested editing the Order of Conditions to check off under section B. boxes C, E,F,G, and H. Chair Craig Jernstrom also suggested changing the minimum Buffer Zone distance from 10' to 5' and the distance from the bank under section #4 to 100'. Erin expressed concern over the use of fire to eliminate the invasive species. Chair Jernstrom explained there would not be an open fire and the process involved charring the stumps with a devise similar to a blowtorch. Commissioner Erin Lynch stated her concern was alleviated. Chair Jernstrom suggested the following special conditions be added: #16. All practical efforts shall be made to have minimal on site smoke build up from burning

#17. All practical effort shall be made to prevent herbicide from entering the quarry

No further comment from the Commission.

Motion to approve the Order of Conditions and Special Conditions as revised made by Commissioner Anothony Zampiceni; second by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth and approved by roll call vote five (5)-zero (0). Commissioner Frances Corgnati recused.

NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

No new submittals at this time.

PROJECT MONITORING

5. 15 Yorkshire Place

Chair Craig Jernstrom reported that the plantings would be installed by the next meeting according to the home owner.

6. Robin and Smith St

The Commission reported that they were still awaiting a revised Notice of Intent. Commissioner Frances Corgnati reported on her site visit findings and expressed concern regarding the grading and condition/location of the erosion controls. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth explained the silt fence ran along the property line. Chair Craig Jernstrom stated the current grade changes are not permitted based on the existing Order of Conditions however slight grade changes had been permitted.

7. Heritage Park Pond-DPW

Chair Craig Jernstrom opined the work conducted by the Department of Public Works (DPW) on the outlet for Heritage Park Pond could be considered under the existing bundled Notice of Intent, or could be filed as an Emergency Certificate. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth summarized his site visit findings stating, the DPW had removed an obstruction from the outlet pipe in an effort to retain water that was rapidly draining from the pond. Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth explained the DPW will not be able to fully solve the issue until a later date due to the extensive research, funding, and planning necessary.

Motion to ratify the Emergency Certificate for the initial work to prevent greater water drainage made by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni; second by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth and approved by roll call vote five (5)-zero (0). Vice Chair Tom O'Brien recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

8. 53 Tanglewood

No comment from the Commission.

9. Projects [See Project Monitoring spread sheet]

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Policies and Procedures of the Conservation Commission

Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth noted the collaborative effort made by Acting Planning Director, Bethany Yeo and himself to create a more user-friendly Conservation Commission webpage.

11. Discussion of Levying Fines for Violations

Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth stated he had located a form provided for by Massachusetts DEP for issuing violation fines and suggested the Commission utilize that form rather than the form he had drafted.

12. Review of Remote Internship Draft Duties

Acting Planning Director, Bethany Yeo spoke to the draft Remote Internship duties and asked the Commission for their review/comments. The Commission stated they were in favor of the document as drafted.

13. Review of Draft Newspaper Ad for Commission vacancy

Chair Craig Jernstrom opined the newspaper ad should be placed in the Reminder, rather than the Springfield Republican newspaper.

14. MVP Action Grant Letter of Support

Acting Planning Director, Bethany Yeo explained the purpose of the MVP Action Grant and the need for a Letter of Support from the Commission. The Commission unanimously spoke in support of the grant.

15. Open Meeting Law Complaint: Redstone Ponds, LLC

Chair Craig Jernstrom stated the Commission had received an Open Meeting Law complaint and explained the next steps the Commission would need to take. Chair Craig Jernstrom stated that Town Counsel, Jesse Belcher-Timme [Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy, P.C.] would be responsible for drafting the response to the complaint.

Motion for Town Counsel to draft the response made by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth; second by Commissioner Frances Corgnati and approved by roll call vote six (6)-zero (0).

Town Counsel, Jesse Belcher-Timme was present for discussion and introduced himself. Commissioner Frances Corgnati asked if Town Counsel could send the draft response to the Commission for review prior sending it to the Attorney General. Town Counsel confirmed he would do so.

ADJOURN Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Frances Corgnati; second by Clerk Jeffrey Bosworth and approved by roll call vote six (6)-zero (0) at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Bethany Yeo,
Planning & Community Development Director