

## **MINUTES OF JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 MEETING**

Virtual access via phone (646) 558 8656 or web at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) with Meeting ID 843 7216 5129 / Password 070733

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair John Bresnahan at 7:02 P.M. on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and was conducted in a remote format, consistent with the July 16, 2022 Bill extending certain provisions that were previously held during the state of emergency.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair John Bresnahan, David Dumais, Patrick Carnahan, Kiernan Mulcahy.

**Absent:** Patrick Gottschlicht, Andrea Chasen, Kimberly Barton.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:** Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to accept the minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: abstained. Motion passed 3-0 with one abstention.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary \$3,764.63; Maintenance: \$700; Office Supplies \$100; Miscellaneous \$-10; Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,877.15; ConCom Trust Fund \$9,648.54.

### **DISCUSSION AND VOTE – PROPOSED REVISION TO WETLANDS BYLAW TO ACKNOWLEDGE DPW LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT:**

In recent months Director of Planning Corrin Meise-Munns has been working with the Town Engineer and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) on a review of the stormwater management regulations found in town bylaws and applicable Rules & Regulations documents. In an effort to ensure that Longmeadow remains a compliant MS4 community and to streamline language compatibility across all regulations, the PVPC has provided recommendations for specific language that is to be adopted, with all recommendations subject to approval by the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Select Board as applicable, with final approval to occur at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting in May 2023. For the Wetlands Bylaw, the recommendation is to include the following paragraph:

“Any activities that result in the disturbance of one acre or more of land are also subject to the plan submission and standards requirements for a Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Permit as noted in Article 6, Chapter 800, of the Longmeadow General Bylaws, and associated Rules and Regulations. Where requirements differ between this Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations and the Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance Permit Bylaw and Rules and Regulations, the stricter of the two shall prevail.”

The commission understand the intent of this recommendations, therefore Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to approve the recommended paragraph as presented for inclusion in the town's Wetlands Bylaw. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Motion passed 4-0.

**CONTINUATION – ENFORCEMENT ORDER 45 TWIN HILLS DRIVE:** Back in the Fall 2022 the commission engaged in active communications with both the homeowners and the contractors regarding the ongoing restoration plan. The recourse that was mandated at the time has been addressed and the project has now followed the steps outlined in the restoration plan previously approved by the commission. To provide proper closure to the case while ensuring that compliance continues throughout the year, Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to lift the Enforcement Order that was issued to the property back in November 2019, with the condition that the Conservation Commission is to visit the site on or around June 1<sup>st</sup> to verify that plantings have been growing according to plan and, should evidence on plant mishandling or other violation be detected, that a fine of \$300 per days will be issued. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Motion passed 4-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – The following items were discussed:

1. Mr. Carnahan, on behalf of the commission, has volunteered to prepare and submit an application for a MassTrails grant that could fund, if awarded, a public outreach speaker series program. He has also proposed, and has volunteered to initiate the research, that the Conservation Commission

consider contacting the owner of a vacant lot at the far end of Anthony Road for a possible land acquisition transaction with CPC funds, if viable, that could be converted to town protected land.

2. Mr. Dumais indicated that the CPC-funded mapping project of the riverfront area remains ongoing with the mapping near completion and the schematic design phase to begin in the near future.
3. Progress was made in the efforts to clean up trash in the floodplains thanks to a joint effort between DPW personnel and community service members of the Sherriff's Department that allowed for the removal of large items that had been illegally dumped over time. The commission is grateful for the assistance provided by the Town Manager's Office and Selectman Dan Zwirko, praising their leadership as they continue to seek out opportunities to enhance Longmeadow's open spaces. It is the commission's hope that such a cleanup could be coordinated on a yearly basis as an event separate from Earth Day cleanup.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*