

## **MINUTES OF MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2023 MEETING**

Physical location: Longmeadow Adult Center, Multipurpose Room – 211 Maple Road, Longmeadow MA 01106

Virtual access via phone (646) 558 8656 or web at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) with Meeting ID 885 2170 9385 / Password 944005

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair John Bresnahan at 6:05 P.M. on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 and was conducted in a hybrid 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, Andrea Chasen, Kimberly Barton, Kiernan Mulcahy. **Absent:** Patrick Gottschlicht.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Selectman Dan Zwirko, Regina Walat, Joe Mitchell, Jennifer Buttaro, Travis Yandow.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:** Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to accept the minutes of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as amended. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: abstained Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention. Additionally, Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to accept the minutes of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: abstained Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary \$2,673.66; Maintenance: \$700; Office Supplies \$100; Miscellaneous \$-10; Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,877.15; ConCom Trust Fund \$9,672.43.

### **CONTINUATION, RDA – TREE AND TREE DEBRIS REMOVAL AT 84 ENGLEWOOD ROAD:**

A site visit was performed on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, where commissioners met with the property owner to assess the extent of the tree damage and discussed the alternatives for adequate removal of the debris, the dead and diseased trees in question. With no further issues to discuss, Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Patrick Carnahan, to issue a Negative Determination #3 and #6 for the RDA submitted by Robert & Regina Walat for tree and debris removal work at their property 84 Englewood Rd, with the following conditions: stump grinding and presence of mechanical equipment on the bank are prohibited and trees are to be cut flush to bank. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Ms. Barton: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes. Motion passed 6-0.

**REVISION – DOA – TWIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB IRRIGATION HOLDING POND:** After understanding the application's scope of work and the commissioners' intent when a vote was made at the time, MassDEP notified the commission that the DOA may have been improperly marked. Accordingly, the commission corrected the scrivener's error on the DOA's pages 3 and 4 to properly reflect a Negative Determination 1, and not Negative Determination #4 and #6 as originally issued.

### **RDA – EVERSOURCE GAS MAIN LINE REPLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION AT LONGMEADOW ST. & MEADOWBROOK RD:**

SWCA Environmental Consultants, on behalf of Eversource Energy, has submitted an RDA for the installation of approximately 2,700 linear feet of a 6" diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) gas main along a portion of Longmeadow Street (between Pleasantview Avenue and Westmoreland Avenue) and the replacement of approximately 1,600 linear feet of 2" diameter HDPE gas main along a portion of Meadowbrook Road. The new pipe on Longmeadow Street will be installed parallel to the existing pipe, with the latter being scheduled for abandonment on the future once the system is ready to transfer gas from one line to the other. Portions of the project are proposed within the 200-foot Riverfront Area of Cooley Brook and 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVWs), an Isolated Vegetated Wetland (IVW), and Bank. The proposed work would not alter or fill any adjacent wetlands or storm drains as the project activities are proposed within the existing paved surface and maintained road shoulder, and all temporarily disturbed areas will be restored to their pre-project conditions following construction; furthermore, the scope of work meets the requirements for a utility maintenance exemption under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a)(2) and exemption under the Longmeadow Wetlands Bylaw. The project is expected to last approximately 12 weeks and will abide by best management practices to reduce the risk of pollutants reaching any resource area.

Questions and concerns arose about the staging area and the possibility of impacting the tree belt and the portion within the resource areas, though the applicant indicated that staging specifications are discussed with the contractor once hired and any conditions set forth by the commission could be incorporated into the staging specifications. Additionally, Ms. Barton inquired whether the engineers had calculated the Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R-factor) for the length of the construction period and if the result would trigger a NPDES permit as she raised concerns or stormwater runoff ending in the resource areas during periods of rainfall. SWCA indicated that the calculations had been made and the trench work does not meet the requirements that would trigger a NPDES permit and Mr. Carnahan noted that these trenches are not to be excavated at once, but rather several feet of trench that are dug and temporarily patched per day, thus soil is not expected to be exposed for longer periods of time.

Three additional items were clarified:

- a) RDA filings do not require notification to direct abutters but rather that a legal notice be published in a local newspaper.
- b) Russell Rooney Brook is deemed under the regulations as an intermittent stream and any suggestion to change its status to perennial must undergo specific steps set forth by MassDEP.
- c) The overall project is larger, with a portion going through Westmoreland Avenue, but only a portion of the overall project that falls within ConCom jurisdiction is being discussed in this RDA.
- d) Any impact to the tree belt that does not fall within the commission's jurisdiction is to be assessed and regulated by the Tree Committee and the DPW as applicable.

*Commissioner Andrea Chasen departed the meeting at 7:00pm.*

Chair John Bresnahan noted that the RDA's Section B on page 1 incorrectly marks Box A and requested that the applicant resubmit page 1 without a marking on Box A. Additionally, Mr. Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Patrick Carnahan, to issue a Negative Determination #2 and #3 with the conditions that erosion control devices are installed and inspected by the commission prior to work commencement and that the site inspector's contact information be provided to the commission for future monitoring. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Ms. Barton: no; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Mr. Mulcahy: yes. Motion passed 4-1.

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

1. Two inspections were performed in recent days for property owners looking to perform diseased tree removal work in their respective properties. There is no immediate danger to the public or property therefore the property owners were indicated to file RDAs in the future.
2. Options for the placement of granite or concrete blocks can be considered as elements to deter illegal vehicular traffic in the floodplains.
3. MassDEP recently released the 2022 Handbook for Delineation of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and among the changes is the emphasis on soils and other indicators of hydrology for the purposes of wetland delineation.
4. The CPC-funded Riverfront Surveying and Mapping project has advanced substantially and David Dumais wishes to present the commission the latest data produced by the consultant. A presentation will be prepared for the next available meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*