

MINUTES OF APRIL 26TH, 2023 MEETING

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A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair John Bresnahan at 7:03 P.M. on April 26th, 2023 and was conducted in a hybrid format, consistent with the March 29, 2023 Bill extending certain provisions that were previously held during the state of emergency.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair John Bresnahan, David Dumais, Patrick Carnahan, Andrea Chasen.

Absent: Patrick Gottschlicht, Kiernan Mulcahy, Kimberly Barton.

OTHERS PRESENT: Assist. Town Manager Corrin Meise-Munns, Phil Schaefer, Bruce Tyler, Edward Weagle, Mary Breeding.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING: Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to accept the minutes of March 22nd, 2022 as presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salary \$2,201.61; Maintenance: \$700; Office Supplies \$100; Miscellaneous \$-10; Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,877.15; ConCom Trust Fund \$9,680.68. The commission will look into potential projects that could benefit from the Maintenance funds.

RDA – TREE WORK AT 200 OVERBROOK RD.: Arbormax Tree Care's Phil Schaefer, representing the property owner, indicated that his client is looking to remove two dead helmlocks that are approximately 85' tall and pose a danger to nearby structures. The trees are on top of the moderate slope and approximately 50' away from the nearby stream; logs are to be left on site and stumps are to be left in place to prevent slope erosion.

Chair John Bresnahan had visited the site and concurs with the applicant's approach. With that said, Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to issue a Negative Determination #2 and #6. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

RDA – TREE WORK AT 186 WEST RD.: Arbormax Tree Care's Phil Schaefer, also representing the property owner, indicated that his client is looking to remove a large cottonwood tree along the CT riverbank that has been struck by lightning and split, with the remaining portion of the tree diseased and posing a threat to the home and adjacent healthier trees should it fall. The logs will be removed from the property and the stump is to be left in place to prevent slope erosion.

Chair John Bresnahan had also visited this site and again concurs with the applicant's approach. With that said, Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Dumais, to issue a Negative Determination #2 and #6. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

RDA – SEASONAL WELL IRRIGATION AT 260 ANTHONY RD: The Pioneer Valley Yacht Club seeks permission to install a seasonal irrigation supply well and water supply for manual irrigation of the outdoor spaces, boat washing and other outdoor activities as needed. The property has an existing well but its 1000-gallon maximum capacity strains the building's system during periods of strong drought. This additional well will be installed with a truck-mounted rotary drill rig and approximately 60' below grade around the top of the clay layer, 180' from the top of the CT River bank and 145' from the southerly property line; the well's cap would sit above ground. Options for pumps are being studied but any additional equipment that maybe needed will be installed inside the pool house.

With no further questions from the commission or the public, Chair John Bresnahan made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Carnahan, to issue a Negative Determination #2 and #6 with the condition that erosion control devices be installed around the rig and spoils, and that spoils be used on planting beds and/or throughout the grounds. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

DISCUSSION – LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR GRANTS APPLICATIONS: Assist. TM Meise-Munns is preparing two separate applications that could potentially provide funding for FY-24-25 for projects related to Cooley Brook’s study and enhancement design project. One grant is the 2024-2025 Municipal Vulnerability Grant fund program and the other is the 2023 Long Island Sound Futures fund program, the latter which would aid in the development of a watershed-based plan and conceptual green infrastructure plan for the Cooley Brook watershed as well as provide support for the DPW in the creation of acceptable design specifications for future green infrastructure installations within the Town’s right-of-ways. Ms. Meise-Munns is requesting support from the commission in the form of two letters (one for each program) to be included in the two grant applicants. The commission appreciates Ms. Meise-Munns’ efforts to obtain additional funding for projects and offered to provide such letters of support in a timely manner.

DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON CPC-FUNDED CONSERVATION RIVERFRONT AREA MAPPING & SURVEYING PROJECT: Mr. Dumais presented the following updates:

1. The two lots that conform the riverfront area have been mapped and its elements have been surveyed. A schematic design shows a 6-space, ADA-accessible parking area and an ADA-accessible pedestrian path within the property that branches out towards two seating areas where concrete pads would exist to anchor outdoor picnic tables and continues towards the river bank.
2. There is potential to increase river views by removing a small number of trees and planting in their place native species (as found on other portions of the CT River) that require less maintenance and are shorter in height. A couple of trees have been identified as diseased/past their useful life or dead and removal is also recommended for these to ensure public safety.
3. An invasive species management plan would need to be implemented to address the current presence of said pests.
4. In order to finalize the design Mr. Dumais encouraged commissioners to offer additional ideas that can could be implemented based on the findings of the survey.

Fellow commissioners praised Mr. Dumais efforts of diligently working with R Levesque & Associates throughout this time and are excited to see this project evolve into a more defined design and its future implementation. Interactions with an R Levesque & Associates will be coordinated in the near future to discuss additional ideas.

OTHER BUSINESS – The following items were discussed:

1. Mr. Bruce Tyler has informed the commission that a restoration plan has been completed and the cleanup remains an ongoing effort, albeit at a slower pace than desired. The commission will review the restoration plan once received and will be in contact with Mr. Tyler to discuss the next steps.
2. Eversource has installed the erosion control devices for the gas pipeline replacement and installation along a portion of Longmeadow St. and Meadowbrook Rd. The commission has performed its inspection and was informed that consultant SWCA will provide monthly summary reports of the project.
3. Chair John Bresnahan has been in communications with the Fire Chief regarding the appropriate elements to be used on the floodplains as deterrent to illegal vehicle traffic, with a preference for granite blocks on certain locations and a gate on others. A site visit will be coordinated with the Fire Chief to better define the alternatives. Mr. Carnahan has received input from DPW that they may be able to assist if granite blocks end up being an option.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano