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Chelmsford Conservation Commission
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2018
Approved April 17, 2018

Meeting Location: 50 Billerica Rd., Room 205, Chelmsford, Ma 01824

Members Present: David McLachlan-Chairman, William Vines, Chris Tymula, Marc Gibbs, April Mendez

Members Absent: Jack Souza, Chris Garrahan,

Others Present: Katharine Messer-Conservation Agent

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman McLachlan.

All documents referenced in these minutes are available for review at the Community Development Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford Town Offices Building. This meeting was audio recorded and hand recorded via the Recording Secretary.

Open Session / Citizen Concerns

No one came forward at this time.

Regulatory

**Request for Determination of Applicability, new
Rt. 495 ROW, stormwater improvements**

Legal notice read. Jay Quattrocchi and Mark Costa of VHB Engineering spoke on behalf of Mass DOT. The project is for storm water improvements for Concord River, as part of State requirements to comply with an EPA MS4 Permit. The goal of this permit is to reduce impaired water areas, and the goal of this project is to increase water quality and control phosphorus. The entire project spans both Chelmsford and Lowell. Work will be on Carlisle and Gorham Streets. Work is in buffer zone; most of the work is to install infiltration basins in low areas to improve TSS removal. One basin will tie into existing pipes along Rt. 495; the other basins will infiltrate water into the ground. Another location will have perforated pipe installed. Most areas are already grassed, vegetated swales, will be re-seeded. There will be yearly inspections and maintenance when necessary.

The State has determined that the Concord River is an impaired water source for phosphorus and is therefore a priority area needing improvement.

Erosion controls will be used and were shown, most likely compost filter tubes.

No comments were received from the audience.

Motion: by Mr. Vines to approve a Request for Determination of Applicability for Rt. 495 Right-of-Way with a Negative Three Determination, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tymula. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

**Request for Certificate of Compliance-New
90 Dunstable Rd., DEP#129-0376**

This project was approved in 1994, for the construction of a garage and breezeway. All work was done according to plan, and has stabilized.

Motion: by Mr. Gibbs to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 90 Dunstable Rd., DEP 129-0376 as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Mendez. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Discussion

Shore Drive.

No update available.

The road is frozen, has many potholes. The material could be frozen, also.

Donation of Land at Cushing Place

The Commission agreed to accept a donation of about 2.6 acres of land behind the proposed Winstanley Apartment Complex project abutting rail trail in Chelmsford Center Village.

Motion: by Mrs. Mendez to accept the donation of 2.6 acres of land off Cushing Place as presented. Seconded by Mr. Vines. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Parcel off of St. Andrews Way-Con Com Designation

A parcel near St. Andrews Way and Technology Dr. that abuts the UMass West Campus property was taken for tax possession. The Town Manager has requested the Conservation Commission manage this parcel, as the area is all wetland and not walkable.

Motion: by Mr. Vines to notify the Town Manager that the Conservation Commission will accept Parcel 21-71-19 off St. Andrews Way and Technology Dr. as presented. Seconded by Mr. Gibbs. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Continual Business

Land Management update

Cranberry Bog Reservation

Mr. McLachlan advised the Commission that the Carlisle Conservation Commission Cranberry Bog Sub-Committee is working very hard trying to develop alternate uses for the bog. A peer review committee has been formed to review a report over the summer. Three options are being looked at are hay growing (however, the Federal government has told them they cannot install new drainage), or mow the bog every year and plant blueberries, or let it go to natural habitat. Any alternate use will impact their water rights, and could impact the Chelmsford Water District from putting in water wells in that area; however, it could enable them to put wells in off Barnes Terrace. Depending on the impacts of well installation, potentially the Water District may wish to maintain the dam.

Mr. McLachlan wants Chelmsford to have some input on options, as their decision may impact the dam in Chelmsford. Mr. McLachlan feels Carlisle should be responsible for maintaining the dam if they are ones controlling the water rights. Alternatively, if Carlisle doesn't need water for this location, they would not need the dam.

Mr. McLachlan requested permission to speak with the Town Manager on how to proceed with discussions with Carlisle, which was granted. Ms. Messer noted the area may be too wet for haying, and equipment would sink in the mud. There is also concern about maintaining water levels to mitigate potential flooding. There is consensus that the public wants the area to remain scenic.

Other Business

Mr. Wilson has identified a zip line from private property to an island off the end of Natalie Rd. and Barnes Terrace. Ms. Messer was authorized to send a letter to abutters reminding them that Conservation Land is public property.

COSS renews a fire license with the Fire Department annually in order to burn branches and similar debris at Red Wing Farm Reservation. The Commission was notified that the permit was renewed, and there were no issues.

Agent's Report

Documents were signed as needed.

The MACC Conference is being held on March 3, 2018. Commissioners interested in attending were advised to contact Ms. Messer.

Ms. Messer was congratulated on her recent engagement.

Approve Minutes

January 2, 2018 and January 16, 2018

Motion: by Mr. Tymula to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2018 and January 16, 2018, as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Mendez. Mr. Vines and Mr. Gibbs abstained, all others in favor. **Motion carries.**

Adjourn

Motion: by Mr. Tymula to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Date of Next Meetings: February 20th March 6

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian W. Merrill
Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:

- RDA Application for Rt. 495 ROW
- COC Application for 90 Dunstable Rd.
- Maps for parcel acceptances
- Draft Minutes