

RECEIVED 2018-04-18 4:03 PM

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD PATRICIA E. DZURIS TOWN CLERK

Chelmsford Conservation Commission
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2018
Approved April 17, 2018

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

Members Present: David McLachlan-Chairman, Jack Souza, Chris Garrahan, Chris Tymula, April Mendez (7:05PM), Marc Gibbs

Members Absent: William Vines

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

Will be taken out of order, with agreement from the Commission.

Regulatory

Request for Determination of Applicability-new

Cushing Place, utility and sidewalk work

Legal Notice Read. Steven Jahnle, Assistant Public Works Director, explained the Town received a Massworks grant to complete some work in this area for putting utilities underground in some areas and replacing some sidewalks. All work is being done in previously disturbed areas; there will be no new disturbance. Several of the nearby buildings experience groundwater issues; however, Mr. Jahnle does not expect to have water issues in the areas where the utilities will be suppressed.

Audience Comments:

Ann Gardner, 46 Old Stage Rd., asked why the project might lose its state funding. She was advised that the nearby housing development is being sold, and the time line to do the work may expire, in which case the funding would have to be returned to the State.

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to approve the Request for Determination for Cushing Place Utility and Sidewalk work with a Negative Three determination. Seconded by Mr. Souza. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Mr. McLachlan asked Mr. Jahnle if his department could mow some areas in the parking lots of several reservations, and if the road grindings on Shore Drive could be moved to other side of the road, away from the lake. Mr. Jahnle agreed to look into the mowing, and the road grinding pile is expected to be used when the road is graded in the spring, after the snow melts.

Open Session

Ann Gardner, 46 Old Stage Rd. explained her neighborhood has a lot of old and decaying trees on conservation land near the brook. Part of a tree at 44 Old Stage was removed about 7 years ago. The other half of the tree is still dying, and could fall at any time. She is afraid it will land on her house, and she would like the tree removed by the Town. She has already removed several trees from her neighbor's property.

She noted additional concerns that a falling tree will take out the street wires, and others could land on her car or her house. She requested the Town remove the big trees. Mr. Jahnle explained National Grid will address trees near their wires.

The Commission advised it generally doesn't have an issue with tree removal near private property if there is imminent danger of it falling and causing property damage. Mr. Jahnle advised that the DPW generally removes street trees, but they cannot go on private property. Ms. Messer recommended at least 5 feet of tree stump remain to keep the bank of the brook stable. Ms. Gardner noted debris floats downstream and the stream is obstructed in places.

Ms. Messer was advised by the Commission to go out and see the situation, and it was noted the work may need to go out to bid. The Town Manager will be asked about funding options, as DPW's budget for tree work is exhausted. Mr. Jahnle agreed to visit the site with Ms. Messer.

Discussion

Shore Drive

Previously addressed earlier in the meeting with Mr. Jahnle.

Continual Business

Land management update

Mr. McLachlan reported that the Carlisle subcommittee charged with looking at this site delivered their report to the Carlisle Conservation Commission. The Carlisle Conservation Commission is having the report peer reviewed. Mr. McLachlan advised he will attend the Carlisle Conservation Commission's meeting to discuss these reports, and to discuss their water needs. He will ask them to maintain the upper basin of the dam if they require water use.

Mr. McLachlan reported that Zoo New England did a presentation yesterday to describe programs they have to try to save native amphibians. There is another program that focuses on developing native plants to replace non-native invasive plants. Volunteers will be needed to catalog salamanders and turtles. Mr. McLachlan will continue to work with the presenting organization.

Agent's Report

Paperwork was signed as required.

Approve Minutes

There were no minutes to approve this evening.

Other business:

Smith St. residents near the stream are experiencing flooding. There may be possible beaver activity on the Canal Place side in Lowell. Ms. Messer will contact the Lowell Conservation Agent to make sure the outlets are clear. There is also the possibility that existing culverts are undersized.

Adjourn

Motion: by Mr. Garrahan to adjourn the meeting at 7:32PM. Seconded by Mr. Gibbs. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Date of Next Meetings: April 17th

May 1st

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian W. Merrill
Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:
-Application for Cushing Place