

## MINUTES OF MARCH 2<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 838 0032 0736 / Password 527891

A meeting of the Longmeadow Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair John Bresnahan at 6:03 P.M. on March 2<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. **Absent:** Patrick Gottschlicht, Kiernan Mulcahy.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Parson, Regina Walat, Dan Zwirko.

**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 presented. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: yes; Ms. Chasen: yes. Motion passed 4-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Salary \$3,208.65; Maintenance: \$700; Office Supplies \$100; Miscellaneous \$-10; Wetlands Protection Fund \$7,877.15; ConCom Trust Fund \$9,664.98.

*Commissioner Kimberly Barton joined the meeting at 6:09pm*

**RDA – TREE AND TREE DEBRIS REMOVAL AT 84 ENGLEWOOD ROAD:** Mrs. Walat explained that during a wind storm in late December 2022 a large tree was snapped and its collapse cause the fall of other nearby trees and their limbs, leaving a large amount of debris at the top of the slope that leads to Russell Rooney Brook, a stream running along the northern property line. There was no damage to the dwelling unit nor do the overhanging tree branches pose a danger to structure, although they can pose a hazard to individuals at any point. In addition to the trees that have been damaged, three trees were determined to be diseased and past their useful life. With decreased protection due to the loss of nearby trees, it was the arborist's recommendation that these diseased trees be cut down to prevent further damage to the area during a future inclement weather event. It is anticipated that any tree removal will be performed with the use of a crane and stumps are to be left in place to prevent slope erosion.

Chair John Bresnahan attested to the issues raised by Mrs. Walat as he performed a site visit at the request of the tree contractor soon after the storm. Ms. Barton raised the consideration of beautifying the area to promote the wellbeing of Russell Rooney Brook and its surroundings and was interested in looking at the site conditions, therefore a site visit was scheduled for Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm to provide other commissioners the opportunity to assess the scope of work.

### **CONTINUATION, RDA – TWIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB IRRIGATION HOLDING POND:**

Chair John Bresnahan disclosed that his employer manufactures products utilized by Twin Hills Country Club, therefore he will recuse himself from the matter to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Mr. Dumais indicate that a site visit conducted on Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> where it was confirmed that no natural outlet exists, no wetlands exists around the pond area and no further issues were raised. A discussion emerged about the possibility of establishing a wetland along a portion of the pond, but such request was determined to impose an operations, maintenance and economic burden on the applicant that would outweigh its ecological value, especially since the area does not fall under the jurisdiction of the commission. The applicant, however, is open to beautifying the area in a way that could be of ecological value without the regulatory burden that poses a wetland resource area, a consideration that the commission welcomed.

David Dumais made a motion, and was seconded by Kimberly Barton, to issue a Negative Determination #4 and #6 for the RDA submitted by Twin Hills Country Club for irrigation pond debris removal at 700 Wolf Swamp Road, with the following conditions: the extracted material is stored on the property, be surrounded with a silt fence to ensure containment and that such storage location be at least 200' from any wetland resource area or water body. Roll call vote - Mr. Dumais: yes; Mr. Carnahan: yes; Ms. Barton: yes; Mr. Bresnahan: abstained; Ms. Chasen: yes. Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention.

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

1. Ms. Chasen attended a recent Open Space workshop where BioMap was presented, which is a web-based framework tool promoted by MassWildlife and The Nature Conservancy that allows for the processing of ecological and conservation related data and displays it in multiple geographic scales for communities to visualize and use for project development. She wishes to team up with the Longmeadow Parks and Recreation Department and the Storrs Library to develop an online workshop later in the spring to engage our community. The commission welcomed the idea and encouraged Ms. Chasen to pursue the opportunity.
2. Preparations are underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual The Longmeadow Earth Day Cleanup, Mr. Carnahan has indicated that an scout troop is interested in collaborating with cleanup efforts along the Riverfront Area.
3. Mr. Dumais shared information about solar-powered cameras that could potentially be installed at specific points along the floodplain. Key items to consider would be cost and access to fiber optic service (this would allow the equipment to be connected to the Longmeadow Police Department system) and the reality of incurring in potential financial losses due to equipment theft.
4. The commission will reach out to commission Patrick Gottschlicht to discuss his availability, as he has been unable to attend meetings since he was appointed in the Fall of 2022, an issue raised by Ms. Barton.

*Commissioners Kimberly Barton and Andrea Chasen departed the meeting at 6:52pm and 6:55pm, respectively.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*