

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau, Mike Donnelly, John Koutonen, David Streb, Mary Heline (assoc. member), Ralph Baker (assoc. member)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 at Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Ms. Sarefield read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES

Deferred until next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Request for Determination of Applicability - Petrucci, 1280 Ashburnham Hill Rd., building addition in Buffer Zone

Dave Petrucci & son and Bill Schulze (builder) present to propose to building addition on existing house. Question whether the stream to the left of proposed work was intermittent or perennial. Stream shows on the USGS topo map, but Dave say it does dry up several times a year. Erosion control barriers to be installed at edge of work.

House was originally built in 2001 by Eric Olson. Q: What was shown original site plan & what determination did the Commission make at the times, Perennial or Intermittent? Old files will be checked. Motion made & seconded to continue to April 30th meeting. Vote in favor.

Notice of Intent - 0 Ashburnham St. (adjacent to #424 Ashburnham St.), Harrison, driveway & single-family dwelling in Buffer Zone

Both applicant and Matt Marro, his wetlands consultant, informed the office days ago that they would be unable to make the meeting. Since there were a number of abutters present, it was decided to take public comment, rather than turn people away.

Public Comment:

Kris Kelley, 394 Ashburnham St. (immediate abutter on right) - stream frequently overflows, is concerned with flooding. Stream dries up in summer month but runs 80% of year.

Robert & Joyce Wells, 424 Ashburnham St. (immediate abutter to left) – Area is all ledge, will there be blasting? If so he's again the project.

Aaron Crown, 421 Ashburnham St., also concerned w/ blasting. Small lot, limited area to place house. Also there's lots of wildlife along that stream corridor that would be disturbed.

Tom Sicard, 427 Ashburnham St. - Concerned with drainage. No city drainage in that area of Ashburnham St. This will make situation worse

Jim Philbin, 390 Ashburnham St. - also concerned w/ blasting.
Commission agreed to continue matter to the April 30th meeting.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Limited tree clearing for remediation site prep in Riverfront Area, 555 Westminster St.

Marty Lebo, AquAeTer, Inc. & Heather Storlazzi-Ward, Boyle Assocs. present. Hearing opened. In preparation for remediation at 555 Westminster St. (former Mill 7) several trees need to be removed for construction access. Since the area *may* be habitat for a threatened bat species, Northern Long-eared bat (NLEB), the optimal time to remove trees (greater than 3"dbh) is during the bat hibernation period, during the winter, or generally during the period of November through March. Trees are located in the upland buffer zone, and would be cut at their base. There is a limited window of time to do this tree removal or otherwise wait until next winter. Applicant has offered to install bat boxes on the building.

Public comment: None. Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability, with a condition that two bat boxes be installed. Vote in favor.

Marty & Heather will be filing a full NOI for the proposed remediation work for the May Commission meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Correspondence

- Bill Smith in to discuss a city-wide Pesticide/Herbicide application policy for publicly owned land. Several Mass. towns have such a policy, he will FW: them to the Commission. He has an organic garden on his property, but is concerned about Pesticide/Herbicides applied on parks, playgrounds, etc.

- Wyman Pond letter – Tracey shared draft letter from Law Dept. to be sent to the Westminster Conservation Commission stating the City's concerns with proposed Herbicide treatment on the Pond. Next meeting Weds. March 27th.

Energy Commission – Tracey stated she had been contacted by a member of the Energy Commission asking to come to a meeting to see how the Commission runs meetings.

- David Vallee lecture with Fitchburg Public Schools/ DPW-Wastewater treatment
Tracey has reached out to Mr. Vallee. He is willing to make similar presentation on climate change as last year to schools, FSU, etc. She will talk w/ Wastewater & university on venue.
Timing? Prob. end of May

- Nashua River - "Wild & Scenic River" designation - Ralph: Recently approved 11 towns in Mass & N.H. It imposes no new regulations, just a set or river protection principles which the communities support. Fitchburg is not in the area so designated.

-Emergency Certification - Water main repair - East WWTP, Lanides Lane
Tony Maressa & Jeff Murawski, Wastewater in to inform Commission of emergency repair/ relocating of waterline to the Treatment Plant & locating new section further away from riverbank.
They will be in to a future meeting to discuss methods of bank stabilization since other utility lines near riverbank are in danger of being undermined.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.
Meeting adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 4/30/19
Minutes approved: 4/30/19