

East Longmeadow Conservation Commission

60 Center Square

East Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01028

Telephone: (413) 525-5400 - extension 1700 - Facsimile (413) 525-1656

Michael Carabetta, chair

Thomas O'Brien, vice chair

Craig Jernstrom, clerk

René Reich-Graefe

Robert Sheets

William Arment

Anthony Zampiceni

drau@eastlongmeadowma.gov

March 9, 2016

Present were: Chair, Craig Jernstrom; Vice Chair, Michael Carabetta; Clerk, Thomas O'Brien, Anthony Zampiceni and William Arment. René Reich-Graefe and Robert Sheets was not present.

Public Meeting – Department of Public Works, Somers Road former landfill

Chair, Craig Jernstrom opened the public meeting for the Department of Public Works. Clerk, Thomas O'Brien read the legal notice into the record.

Present from the Department of Public Works were Daniel Murphy, Town Engineer & Robert Peirent, Superintendent. Mr. Jernstrom welcomed Mr. Murphy and Mr. Peirent and asked them to explain to the Commission what it is they would like to do.

Bob Peirent said that the proposed work is for the installation of a soil cap at the former landfill on Somers Road. He said that the state got involved when methane gas was detected behind the Fire Station that led to an investigation not only on the Fire Station property but the whole landfill property behind it. Mr. Peirent said that the original Somers Road landfill was used in from the 1950's through the early 1980's primarily as a bulky waste landfill and closed in the early 1980's in accordance with the requirement to that time and converted to a transfer station. He said that the town continued to operate the back portion of the site and at the time it was used for a bulky waste area there was dumping out on some of the wooded areas. He said that a portion of the site at that time met the requirements of 2 feet of sand on top of the waste but not necessarily adequate coverage on the other portions of the site. Mr. Peirent said that it ultimately led to some recommendations that sat in front of DEP for almost 10 years and this past October the state finally approved it with the recommendations that were made many years ago to cap two areas in that portion of the landfill. He said that the town is now on yearly environmental monitoring of the landfill area and the capping requirements are essentially the same as they were in the 1980's. Mr. Peirent said when they starting digging test pits they found all sorts of metal debris and initially they thought they could just remove it. However, once they took one piece out there was another and another so they felt that it was best to cover it up and let it be then try to uncover everything that was there and the state was okay with that approach.

Daniel Murphy said that the Phase I area is behind the Police Station all the way to the back off to the right and some of the trees have been cleared and taken out from the wetland area. He said that it is all flagged and they need to cap that one by the end of October. Once they get approval from the Commission, they will put the controls in place and then clear it. Phase II will start shortly after that. Mr. Murphy said that the cap will be 15 inches of silty material that was tested and on top of that will be top soil and compost.

Mr. Peirent said there has to be positive drainage because the state wants to reduce the amount of water that soaks down through the landfill area. He said that they don't want the water to shed off and are required to maintain at least a 2% grade so they get rid of any standing water that might sit on the site. Mr. Peirent said that they are also required under their permit to have an independent engineer that certifies the work has been done because the state has had a lot of problems with landfills over the years. He said that they will be using their own forces and using their own material to do the capping and their game plan is when they are done they will continue to use the area as a transfer station. Mr. Peirent said they are now required to put a 15 inch pad over the top of it because the state's concern is that they don't disturb what's underneath.

Mr. Jernstrom asked why they need to cut the trees down. Mr. Peirent said to place the fill. Mr. Jernstrom said personally he didn't see any issues with it and would like them to let the Commission know once they have the erosion controls in place so that someone from the Commission could go out and look at it. Mr. Peirent said that they could do that. Mr. Jernstrom addressed the Commission for any questions or comments. There being none and upon motion duly made by Thomas O'Brien and seconded by Michael Carabetta, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to close the meeting. Upon motion duly made by Michael Carabetta and seconded by Anthony Zampiceni, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to issue a negative determination because the work described is within the buffer zone but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act, and does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent prior to commencement of work.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Carabetta spoke with the Commission about Mr. Greene who is starting a program where projects would be given to students from various Boards dealing with problems there might be within the town. He said in return the students will try and come up with some solutions or other alternatives to alleviate and/or solve the problems. Mr. Carabetta said that one of the recommendations the Planning Board had was to look at some of the drainage issues there are as far as permeable pavers and catch basins and where the water ends up. He said another suggestion was clearing paths on some of the Conservation trails and basically some ideas to give to the students and let them interact with the Boards so that it gives them the sense of how the community works. He said they should have a list together and ready because he thinks it will be for their fall semester. Mr. Jernstrom said maybe they could give the students a list of opened Notices of Intent that are 5 years old and check the status of the project and asked Mr. Carabetta if he thinks that is what they are looking for. Mr. Carabetta said he is not sure. Mr. Jernstrom said that he will get some things together and send them to everyone.

Reorganization of the Commission

The Commission reorganized and upon motion duly made by Anthony Zampiceni and seconded by William Arment, the Commission voted unanimously to elect Michael Carabetta as Chair. Upon motion duly made by William Arment and seconded by Anthony Zampiceni, the Commission voted unanimously to elect Thomas O'Brien as Vice Chair. Upon motion duly made by William Arment and seconded by Anthony Zampiceni, the Commission voted to elect Craig Jernstrom as Clerk.

Upon motion duly made by Anthony Zampiceni and seconded by William Arment, the Commission voted to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

For the Commission,

Craig Jernstrom, Clerk