

## **EAST LONGMEADOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Time: 6:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Place:** School Committee Conference Room

East Longmeadow High School, 180 Maple St., East Longmeadow, MA

### **MINUTES**

Chair Tom O'Brien opened the meeting at 6:01 PM.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present        Thomas O'Brien, Chair  
                  William Arment, Vice Chair  
                  Elizabeth Stoughton, Clerk  
                  Anthony Zampiceni  
                  Nicholas Turnberg (arrived at 6:07 PM)

Absent         Michael Carabetta

Staff Present   Bailey Mitchell, Planning & Community Development Director  
                      Nina Fazio, Planning & Community Development Administrative Assistant

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 13, 2022

**Motion to approve made by Commissioner Tony Zampiceni; second by Vice Chair Will Arment and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).**

#### **REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY**

1. **Case RDA 2022-4: Request for Determination of Applicability at 15 Murray Court** (Assessor's Parcel ID 26-13-5) for whether the work depicted on plans is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Applicant: Anthony Hernandez, 115 Chestnut Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

The applicant was not present for discussion. Vice Chair Will Arment stated the work is within the 100 ft. buffer zone but will not alter the resource area as the gas line is being connected in the front of the house on existing grass space; Chair Tom O'Brien concurred that a Negative 3 determination would be appropriate. Vice Chair Will Arment stated he would like a condition of approval that the work cannot extend any further into the 100 ft. buffer zone, i.e. on the side or back of the house; any further extension of work would require the applicant to come back before the Commission for further approval.

**Motion for a Negative 3 determination, with conditions of approval, made by Vice Chair Will Arment; second by Commissioner Tony Zampiceni and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).**

2. **Case RDA 2022-5: Request for Determination of Applicability along Pease Road** (between Old Farm Road and South Meadow Road) for whether the area/work depicted on plans is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act or any municipal wetland bylaw of East Longmeadow, MA. Applicant: Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts (EGMA), 247 Station Drive, SE270

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Westwood, MA 02090

Commissioner Nick Turnberg arrived at this time. Chair Tom O'Brien recused himself from this agenda item. Vice Chair Will Arment took over as Chair for this agenda item.

Travis Yandow of SWCA Environmental Consultants was present for discussion on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Yandow presented the plans to install a gas main line along the existing paved way of Pease Road between Old Farm Road and South Meadow Road. Mr. Yandow stated the installation of utilities along existing paved/unpaved public roadways is one of the minor activities exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act; however, the work is subject to the Town's General Bylaws. Mr. Yandow stated all of the work will be done along roadways and there will be no vegetation disturbance. There will be minor temporary impacts within the buffer zones and everything will return to pre-construction condition. Mr. Yandow stated a few of Eversource's Best Management Practices that are included in this work. Mr. Yandow stated the work is expected to begin in late May and will take approximately 6 weeks to complete.

Vice Chair Will Arment expressed concern regarding side casting of spoils on to the steep slope of Pease Road, which could cause runoff into the wetlands. Vice Chair Will Arment stated he would prefer for the spoils to be directly loaded as a condition of approval. Commissioner Nick Turnberg stated Pease Road is too narrow for any side casting without shutting down the road.

**Motion for a Negative 3 determination, with conditions of approval, made by Commissioner Tony Zampiceni; second by Clerk Liz Stoughton and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).**

### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

1. **CC 2022-4 (MASS DEP File #150-69):** Request for a Partial Certificate of Compliance for 9 Mayflower Lane (Assessor's Parcel ID 49-101-7). Applicant: Joan B. Yacovone, 9 Mayflower Lane, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

The applicant was not present for discussion. Chair Tom O'Brien stated Mike Smith has provided a statement that this lot does not fall within any resource areas or associated buffer zones.

**Motion to approve made by Vice Chair Will Arment; second by Commissioner Tony Zampiceni and approved by unanimous vote five (5)-zero (0).**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Request for an Amended Order of Conditions (MassDEP File #150-383) for Bella Vista Drive for a revised Limit of Work Line on Lot 11 (Assessor's Parcel ID 44-10-11). Applicant: Nicholas Kososki, Lot 11, Bella Vista Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Daniel Nitzsche of GZA was present for discussion on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Nitzsche stated the homeowner is looking to move a portion of the Limit of Work Line, which is currently along the 50 ft. buffer zone, 20 feet closer to the wetlands, resulting in a portion of the Limit of Work Line being 30 ft.

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from the wetlands. Mr. Nitzsche stated the reason for moving this is to accommodate some further grading of the lot. The Commission concurred they would prefer to conduct a site visit before approving this request. A site visit was scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

### **PROJECT MONITORING**

- 365 Pease Road

Patsy Liquori was present for discussion. Mr. Liquori stated he has replanted his property in accordance with the Restoration Plan he has provided the Commission and the work will be completed before the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline stipulated in his Enforcement Order. Mr. Liquori stated a few of the plants are dead or dying, but he intends to replace them. The Commission asked for Mr. Liquori to replant the dead or dying plants and to contact the Department to set up a site visit to release him of the Enforcement Order.

- Detention basin behind 53 High Pine Circle

The Commission recounted what they observed at their site visit. Vice Chair Will Arment stated the detention basin is in very critical condition due to lack of maintenance. Vice Chair Will Arment stated there are multiple inches of sand, dirt, leaves, and muck clogging the detention basin, the berm surrounding the detention basin has been compromised and the outlet pipe is broken.

Director Bailey Mitchell stated that since the detention basin is on Town owned property, the homeowner cannot complete this work himself and would need approval from the Town Manager. The Commission stated they would encourage the homeowner to clean up any portion of the detention basin that is on his property. The Commission will bring the condition of the basin to the Town Manager's attention and ask for guidance on how to best restore the detention basin before any further damage occurs.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Policies and Procedures of the Conservation Commission

Administrative Assistant Nina Fazio provided updates on the following wetland concerns that residents have brought to the Department's attention:

- Alice Widmer, 81 Harwich Road, expressed concern on excessive water and erosion on her property caused by the Hidden Ponds subdivision. One of the Commissioners will conduct a site visit.
- An abutter of 149 Elm Street is concerned that her property has been flooding which she believes is caused by her neighbor's recently installed pool near the wetlands. Administrative Assistant Nina Fazio stated that conversion of lawn spaces to pools is a minor activity exempt from the WPA, as long as it is 50 ft. away from the waterline. The DPW suggested the abutter contact their department and ask to put in a work order to clean the catch basin located behind 149 Elm Street in an attempt to reduce the flooding.

### **ADJOURN**

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**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Tony Zampiceni; second by Clerk Liz Stoughton and approved by unanimous vote five (5)-zero (0) at 6:30 PM.**