

EAST LONGMEADOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM Eastern Time

Place: School Committee Conference Room

MINUTES

Vice Chair Elizabeth Stoughton opened the meeting at 6:08 PM

ATTENDANCE

Present Elizabeth Stoughton, Vice Chair
Michael Carabetta, Clerk
Anthony Zampiceni
Nicholas Turnberg
Absent William Arment, Chair
Thomas O'Brien
Staff Present Nina Fazio, Planning & Community Development Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 10, 2023

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni; second by Commissioner Michael Carabetta and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

1. **RDA-2023-02: Request for Determination of Applicability at 11 Chatham Circle** (Assessor's Parcel ID 51-21-5) for whether the area depicted is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and local wetlands bylaws and whether boundaries are accurately depicted. Applicant: Evie Delaney, Juliano's Pools, 321 Talcottville Road, Vernon, CT 06066

The Commission conducted a site visit on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM to view staked boundaries.

Nadia Wright, Juliano's Pools, was present for discussion on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Wright described the request to construct a 40x20 ft. in-ground pool, inclusive of fencing and surrounding patio. Ms. Wright stated erosion control will consist of silt fence and straw wattle which will remain in place until lawn is reestablished. Ms. Wright stated the original site plan submitted was revised to move to proposed location of the in-ground pool closer to the dwelling, away from wetland boundaries and associated buffer zones.

Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni questioned a depression in the lawn observed at the site visit. Ms. Wright stated there is no plan of bringing in fill to regrade the property.

There were no comments or questions from the public at this time.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Commissioner Michael Carabetta; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).

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There were no further comments or questions from the Commission at this time.

Motion to issue a Negative 1 Determination made by Commissioner Michael Carabetta; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).

- 2. RDA-2023-03: Request for Determination of Applicability at Deer Park Drive** (Assessor's Parcel ID 11-6-4A) for whether the area and activities depicted are subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and local wetland bylaws. Applicant: Charles G. Arment, 47 Warehouse Street, Springfield, MA 01118

The Commission conducted a site visit on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM to view staked boundaries.

John Furman, VHB, Inc., was present for discussion on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Furman provided information on the development history of the subject site and the proposed construction of an approximately 31,000 sq. ft. commercial recycling center and associated site improvements. Mr. Furman reviewed the existing and proposed drainage of three (3) sections of the subject property. Mr. Furman estimated 80% of current site runoff enters the neighboring reservoir; Mr. Furman stated the Stormwater Management Report shows 0% of site runoff will enter the neighboring reservoir following site improvements.

Mr. Furman reviewed the 50 ft. buffer zone line which follows the subject property line; Mr. Furman reviewed the 100 ft. buffer zone in which site improvements will take place. Mr. Furman stated there is no direct resource area impact.

Commissioner Michael Carabetta questioned an existing Notice of Intent issued to the subject property. Mr. Furman provided information on the Order of Conditions issued to the subject property prior to the current property owners' purchase of the site and stated a building with the same footprint as this proposed project was approved to be at this site but was never constructed.

There were no comments or questions from the public at this time.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Commissioner Michael Carabetta; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).

There were no further comments or questions from the Commission at this time.

Motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination made by Commissioner Michael Carabetta; second by Commissioner Nicholas Turnberg and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0).

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.** Discussion of additional proposed test pits located at the Allen Street Landfill (Assessor's Parcel ID 72-12C-0). Petitioner: Town of East Longmeadow, Department of Public Works, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

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Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Mark Berman was present for discussion. Mr. Berman provided information on the existing test pits approved by the Commission in early 2022. Mr. Berman stated the contractor is requesting six (6) additional test pits in the North of the property within the buffer of South Branch Mill River.

Commissioner Michael Carabetta questioned vegetation removal. Mr. Berman stated trees and vegetation would be removed as minimally as possible. Mr. Berman stated work is slated to begin Thursday, June 22, 2023 with a representative from Tighe & Bond and MassDEP present for each test pit. Mr. Berman stated test pits will consist of 10 ft. of excavation, inspection, and immediate back fill.

There were no questions or concerns from the Commission at this time. The Commission acknowledged MassDEP will be present on site during excavation.

PROJECT MONITORING

- 383 Porter Road

Administrative Assistant Nina Fazio provided an update of Notice of Violations issued to 383 Porter Road to date, which total \$22,880.00 of fines and late fees. The Commission discussed following up with the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program regarding their Notice of Non-Compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, issued February 3, 2023. The Commission acknowledged the brush and vegetation along with river bank that was removed without permitting has begun to regrow. The Commission will explore enforcement mechanisms with the help of the Town Manager's Office and continue discussion at the next meeting.

- 20 Hampden Road

Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni summarized his several site visits made to the property in which he observed tree removal on the subject property as well as across the property line on to town owned property at 386 Somers Road, known as Watchaug Meadows Conservation Area. Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni stated he has notified the Department of Public Works to see if they can post the town property line.

The Commission will send a letter to the property owner notifying them of a site visit on June 28, 2023 at 5:30 PM and request their attendance at the June 28, 2023 meeting to discuss the findings of the site visit.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Policies and Procedures of the Conservation Commission

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made Commissioner Michael Carabetta; second by Commissioner Anthony Zampiceni and approved by unanimous vote four (4)-zero (0) at 6:35 PM.