



TOWN OF DEERFIELD

Conservation Commission
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Deerfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes *July 27, 2023*

Members Present: Peter Law, Sean Libbey, Ben Bryne, Kate Devlin, Ann-Mary Cloutier

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Amy Hahn, Building Assistant;

Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes from 6/22/23 were reviewed and accepted as written with a motion from Sean Libbey, seconded by Ben Byrne. Roll call vote approved, 5-0-0.

Old Business:

1. Delta Sand & Gravel Forest Cutting Plan Amendment
 - Alison Wright-Hunter has reviewed and approved (6/26/23) the amendment relocating a stream crossing.
2. RDA Bement Parking Lot Hearing Continuation to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Bement School for work depicted on submitted plans for 0 Ferry Road (Map 40 Lot 16).
 - Emily Wright (WOLA) was in attendance and asked if the Commission was requiring an NOI for this project. The school is not likely going to move forward with the parking lot via filing a formal NOI, moving forward any parking will be temporary and no changes will be made.
 - Kate Devlin made a motion to close the hearing on the The Bement School's RDA Application for a Parking lot (0 Ferry Rd, Map 40 Lot 16), Ann-Mary Cloutier seconded the motion. Roll call vote approved, 5-0-0.
 - Kate Devlin made a motion for a Positive #1 determination indicating the work would require an RDA. Seconded by Ben Byrne. Roll call vote approved, 5-0-0.
3. SWCA Environmental Consultants request a Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 142-0215).
 - Peter Law and Sean Libbey Met with Christin McDonough (SWCA) at 31 Elm St. Cumberland Farms on 7/21/23 for a site inspection of the stormwater system and the restoration of 2500' of BVW (and bank) restoration and associated stream crossing.
 - Christin McDonough spoke regarding the work her company supervised including the 2-year post-construction wetland monitoring. She noted that construction materials were

removed, 75% ground cover has been achieved, and in noticing some invasives (Knotweed and Purple loosestrife) requested permission for long term on-going invasive species treatment plan (requiring a licensed applicator).

- Peter Law mention DEP file # 142-0208 regarding the infiltration basin. Peter would like to see the engineering plans as the water doesn't appear to be settling out. Peter will hold off on approval of the Certificate of Compliance for DEP file 142-0215 until Pete has contacted either Sterling or Cumberland Farms regarding maintenance of the infiltration basin. No motion necessary, item moved to next month's regularly scheduled meeting.

New Business:

- DOT and DPW Emergency Certificate for flooding abatement. Peter Law spent much of July 21st and 25th with Chief John Paciorek Jr. and DPW Superintendent Kevin Scarborough reviewing the critically damaged infrastructure around Town. Pete has also been in contact with DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson. Emergency authorization allows for the abatement of an emergency or for work to mitigate public safety.
- Peter Law discussed the extensive storm damage as a result of several feet of rain over the past few weeks. Five primary areas were identified on MassDOT maintained Routes 116 and 5 & 10:
 - Rte 116 Town Line (321 Conway St.; culvert repair)
 - Rte 5 Wapping Rd. (Richardson's Candy)
 - Rte 5 near The Bement School
 - Rte 5 North of The Bement School
 - Rte 5 Keets Rd – The brook turned into a river flooding an open basement. Work will include restoring original stream bank location.
- Peter Law moved to ratify emergency certification for work reviewed as of 7/25/23, Ben Bryne seconded. Roll call vote approved, 4-0-1.
- As of the meeting there were identified 45 sites with significant storm related issues. Emergency Certification must be authorized by Pete within 24 hours. The Town can appeal to DEP. After Peter Law signs the certifications, they'll need to be ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Many of these locations were discussed, details below:
 - South Division Field at Deerfield Academy had their 40" culvert damaged and plan to replace it with a 60-72" culvert.
 - Lower Road had a 36" culvert fail removing a large segment of road. The new design will include a larger headwall and 60-72" culvert.
 - Wapping Road and Pine Nook Road are both so severely damaged that individual sections are lumped together for one emergency certificate. Pine Nook Road had a stream take the road out in 6 locations washing out guardrails, culverts and pavement. It was noted that Eaglebrook School starts its classes August 24th.

General Discussion:

- Peter Law began the discussion regarding the option for the Conservation Commission to write a wetlands bylaw.
- The subcommittee working on signage related to the work done at Treehouse will be meeting shortly with the design team to discuss next steps.

Items Unanticipated 48 hours prior to posting:

- Steam Mill Road resident requesting permission to build a retaining wall to hold back a stream. RDA forthcoming.

- Greenfield Road resident requesting permission to build a stream crossing for a new home construction. E-mail bounced back, will try to get in touch regarding NOI.

Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Deerfield Conservation Commission will be held on Thursday August 24th, 2023 at 6 pm via Zoom.

A motion was made by Sean Libbey to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm, motion seconded by Ben Byrne. Roll call vote approved, 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted, Sean Libbey, Conservation Commission

All Materials and Documents discussed during this meeting are publicly available on the Town of Deerfield's website (excepting those in draft form).

The link to the Conservation Commission page is:

<https://www.deerfieldma.us/243/Conservation-Commission>

Approved 8/24/2023