

**Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission Minutes
November 8, 2021 6:00 PM**

Commission Members in attendance: Dick Gates, Colleen Doyle, Jon Piper, Jon Letendre, and Nate Maynard.

Others in attendance: Nicole Sanford and Lauren Perry (Springfield Water and Sewer); Karen Taggart (Hilltown Hikers); Wendy Foxmyn (interim Town Manager)

I. New Business

a. Request for Determination: Springfield Water and Sewer

N Sanford and L Perry submitted an RFD for proposed road repair on South Street; the road south of Herrick Rd. within the watershed district. Work will include regrading, adding stone, cleaning and reshaping culverts and drainage, and installing water bars and diversions. Potential start date of spring 2022. R Gates stated that the activity falls under WPA exemptions.

R Gates made a motion to accept the proposed work as exempt under the WPA. J Piper seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

II. Ongoing Business

a. Long Pond Conservation Area: Trail development and collaboration with Hilltown Hikers

K Taggart attended the meeting as a representative of Hilltown Hikers to discuss collaborating on trail development. R Gates provided an overview of the parcel and proposed trail routes. A site visit will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks to hike the parcel, identify points of interest, and begin trail mapping. Shepard Farm parcel was also discussed as a potential site for collaboration on trail development pending town plans for the conservation parcel.

b. Drainage Issues: Nye Brook / Huntington Rd.

Runoff issues still need to be addressed. ConCom has reached out to the town administrator and sought a resolution. Further collaboration with the Highway Department is necessary.

c. Technical Support: Conservation Commission

Discussion with W Foxmyn regarding a potential shared conservation agent with the town of Southwick to assist with technical and regulatory actions. Large scale projects such as Belle Fleur and the solar sites require significant oversight and would benefit from additional support.

cannot discuss the issue because the administrative consent order is still being finalized. The Commission finds it interesting that there are ongoing, detailed discussions about a specific project regarding the mitigation component of the agreement without any involvement or input from the ConCom and are awaiting further details from DEP.

c. **Belle Fleur: Weekly Erosion Control Inspections**

Joe Rogers of GZA contacted R Gates to inform him that he had been contacted by project managers at the Belle Fleur regarding weekly erosion control inspections. They stated that work will be put on pause over the winter months and there is a request to decrease from weekly to monthly monitoring visits until work resumes. There may be financial constraints that are impacting site development but more information is needed. R Gates will be reaching out to Belle Fleur representatives and coordinating with J Rogers to gain more information and establish a plan moving forward.

d. **Update for B. Bernier: Rt. 23 NOI**

Salvini and Associates have been hired by B Bernier to develop an NOI and they have stated that they hope to have one submitted by the January Commission meeting.

e. **Long Pond Conservation Parcel: Trail Development and Hilltown Hikers**

R Gates and N Maynard joined members of the Hilltown Hikers to scout and map some potential trail routes on the Long Pond Parcel. Work will resume flagging a route in January once the hunting season has concluded.

Richard W. Gates
Nathan Maynard (rwa)
John Pipes (rwa)
Colleen Doyle (rwa)
Jon Stendre (rwa)