



PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2024

Location and Time: Location and time: meeting was opened at 7:03PM at the White Building (John Bauer Senior Center 17 West St.)

Attendance:

Jim Robert, JR, Vice Chair/Commissioner ; Bob Ferguson, BF, Commissioner;; Donmarie Sespaniak, DS, Commissioner; Jason Lambert, JL, Commissioner; Holly Robert, HR, Associate Commissioner; Douglas Dillon, DD, Conservation Agent

Others present:

Arline Parnagian 11 Lantern Cir., Monique Parnagian 11 Old Lantern Cir., Leo Parnagian 11 Lantern Cir., attorney Adam Coldwell representing 11 Old Lantern Cir. Mark Love 313 Richards Ave., Travis Thibeault, director DPW Paxton

Minutes:

BF moved, DS seconded the motion to accept the minutes as revised. All in favor, none opposed.

Bills: none

Payment for our conservation agent is now being done by the chair at Townhall.

Correspondence received: none

Sites Visited:

None

Notice of Intent:

11 and 15 Old Lantern Cir.

Mr. Thibeault, noted that DPW has reviewed the history of the easement. Our previous agent, Mia McDonald recommended laying riprap that was done in December 2021. Abutters have complained about the easement to DEP and DPW.

Mr. Parnagian and stated that the previous DPW director, Mike Putnam, oversaw the easement being dug out and removal of vegetation. Recent rains have caused flooding and erosion in his opinion. He also reported that there was standing water and the stream that was not draining under the road.

DD reported that recommendations from DEP were received for improving the easement.

Mr. Thibeault, noted that a maintenance plan is in the NOI. Showed photographs of the riprap and rock used to create baffles in the stream.

Mr. Parnagian reported that the water level was high and the baffles were not visible. He states he does not believe that the drainpipe seems sufficient.

Mrs. Parnagian reported that vegetation has been washed out of the streambanks.

Mr. Thibeault states there are 2 pipes that run to the storm sewer and then to an outlet.

JR asked if there was any modification upstream.

Mr. Thibeault stated that there was repaving on Camp Street which would not likely cause increased water flow in the stream.

HR suggested that the commission may have an ability to hire an outside consultant to review the situation.

Attorney Kobel agreed that a consultation would be helpful. He stated that before riprap and baffles were installed there was a lot of vegetation in the stream and banks. He stated that he believes that erosion has increased. He also noted that there are trees leaning toward the house at 11 Old Lantern Cir.

Mr.Thibeault said that it would not be acceptable to DEP to install a pipe and cover the stream.

JR said that a pipe put could cause flooding to abutters.

Mr.Thibeault said that there has been no further erosion of the banks of the stream in his professional opinion since the riprap was installed. He also noted that Judy Schmitz of DEP visited the site about one year ago. He suggested that DEP could visit and reevaluate as the maintenance schedule is in place and being implemented.

HR suggested that an outside consultant could evaluate all of the issues that have been discussed.

Mr.Thibeault reported that our previous agent, Mia McDonald had told him that no NOI was needed for maintenance of the easement. Mr.Thibeault read the maintenance schedule that includes regular inspections monthly, quarterly and annually and also includes taking annual photos.

BF suggested making a site visit after the next heavy rain.

HR noted that there is a policy for hiring a consultant.

Attorney Kobel stated that some Arbor Vitae plants were removed.

Mr.Thibeault noted that the Arbor Vitae had to be removed in order to allow for maintenance.

Mrs. Parnagian stated that Mr.Thibeault told her that Arbor Vitae would be replaced.

Mr.Thibeault disagreed that is what he said.

Mr. Parnagian stated there has been a large increase in water since the previous DPW director supervise the original work.

Mrs. Parnagian is worried about neighborhood children's safety.

BF moved to continue the issue to the next meeting and in the meantime, investigate how a consultation could be obtained. DS seconded. All in favor none opposed.

Mr. and Mrs. Parnagian agreed for commissioners to do such site visiting.

Updates on previous issues:

Open Space and Recreation Plan.

HR suggested there be a separate subcommittee as was done for the previous plan. The MACC handbook may have information online. The issue including a possible subcommittee will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Changing Regulations:

JR reports that any changes should be put on the agenda for next month. DD and JR will research fees of other towns.

Next meeting, March 14, 2024; April 11, 2024

DS moved to close the meeting, BF seconded, all present were in favor, none opposed. The meeting was closed but the exact time was not recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Robert Ferguson, Conservation Commissioner