



**PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

July 20, 2021

**Approved
8/12/21**

Location and Time: John Bauer Senior Center, West Street, Paxton, 7:30pm-9:01pm

7:30 PM Meeting opened

Attendance:

Commissioners:, Lenny Anderson, Chairman, Mike Voorhis, Vice Chairman; Bob Ferguson, Commissioner; Donmarie Desrosiers, Commissioner; Jim Robert, Commissioner, Holly Robert, Assoc. Member

Others present: Mia McDonald, Cons. Agent, Alfred Cournoyer, Mark Love, Peter Hauge, Donald Tufts, Richard Fenton, Larry Escobar.

Chairman Anderson read aloud the meeting guidelines.

Request for Determination of Applicability for 326 & 350 Richards Ave (Map 16, Parcels 9 & 11,) by Alfred Cournoyer for maintenance of an irrigation pond on an active agricultural land. Alfred Cournoyer represented himself. Jim and Holly Robert moved to the public seating and did not participate in the discussion. He stated the pond that was built in the 1930s for irrigation of the vegetable farm has slowly filled in over time and needs to be dredged. Recent beaver activity has worsened the filling. The beavers have been removed and he and Jim Robert (recused from voting) have been maintaining the outflow. The dam discharges directly to DCR Watershed Supply Protection Area, Mr. Cournoyer stated he will notify DCR of the work. He plans to complete the work as it was historically done by his father at least forty years ago: remove the dredged material and stockpile 100-200 feet away from the pond. The previous stockpile can still be seen on the property, completely vegetated. He has contacted a contractor who has a lot of experience with this work from Pine Sand & Gravel.

The Commission discussed the project and agreed it is part of normal agricultural maintenance on the farm. The also required the following conditions for the work:

1. Erosion control barriers shall be utilized around the stockpile to prevent the migration of soil and sediment.
2. The dredging shall be completed during dry conditions or the pond shall be pumped and outflow valve closed prior to the dredging to lower the water level and reduce/eliminate flow during work.
3. An erosion barrier shall be installed just downstream of the dam to catch any flow/sediment. This barrier shall include a sump that can be maintained.
4. The Office of the Commission shall be contacted at least 48 hours prior to the start of work and the name and contact information for the contractor shall be provided.

LA asked for public comment; none provided.

MV motioned and DD seconded and LA, DD, BF and MV voted by roll call to issued a negative determination of applicability with four conditions listed. JR abstained from the vote.

143 West Street: site visit confirmed wetland resource areas present within 55 feet. Cease work order emailed until Notice of Intent is filed.

3 Crocker Hill Road: site visit confirmed no wetland resource areas within 100 feet.

326 Richards Ave: A Request for Determination of Applicability was received a few days prior for the dredging of the irrigation pond on this farm. There was not time to publish the legal ad for this meeting, so Mia requested a waiver of the 21-day requirement to hear the RDA at the July 8 meeting. The applicant granted this request.

Sites Visited:

226 Richards Ave: Mowing in the wetlands reported. Mia visited the site and found the wetlands to the rear of the split rail fence barrier had been mowed. She spoke with homeowners and they plan to let the area re-grow.

See Building and Board of Health plans, above.

Reminder of Upcoming Meeting Dates (confirm quorum): Thursday, July 8 and August 12. The July meeting will be in person, not remote. Lenny Anderson will be on vacation for the July meeting. Mike agreed to chair the meeting.

Mia requested to spend up to \$200 on the purchase of a used 4-drawer filing cabinet for the storage of files at town hall. MV made a motion, JR seconded and by roll call BF, MV, JR & LA voted in favor of spending up to \$200 on the purchase of the filing cabinet.

Illig's Pond trail boardwalk replacement: Colin McDonald finished the replacement of the boardwalk bridge at the Illig's Pond trail in the woods. Mike inspected the bridge and provided photos. The Commission approved the work and asked Mia to process the reimbursement. The Commission thanked Colin for this time and effort.

MV motioned and JR seconded and JR, LA, DD, BF and MV voted by roll call to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia McDonald,
Agent for the Conservation Commission



Reference Documents:

*As noted in the minutes, on file with the Paxton Conservation Commission.

