

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, David Streb (*left @ 6:30 p.m.*) (6)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 at Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Ms. Sarefield read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES

Not yet finished. Minutes of Nov., Dec. & Jan. meetings to be finished for next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rollstone Hill Trail - Recreational Trails Grant - Letter of Support

Tracey: Commission has been asked by the Greenway Committee to send letter of support for a \$5,000 grant from Mass. DCR's Recreation's Recreational Trails Grant program which will fund construction of Phase I of the Trail Plan, including a sidewalk trail from the Upper Common to the base of Rollstone Hill, a trail to the summit, a loop trail and a parking lot accessed from an adjacent neighborhood.

Motion made & seconded to authorize Commission Chair to sign letter of support. Vote in favor. Letter will be amended to add all Commission member's names & then Tracey will sign.

Game-On Fitchburg - update

Tracey suggested a Site Visit to Game On to view how the site has handled the spring snowmelt and precipitation. Sat. Feb. 24th was tentatively scheduled. Steve Marsden informed C. D. office that a pre-blast survey will be done on abutting properties. Blasting may be needed, but the city would be notified prior. Three Firefighters are required to be on-site during blasting. SWPPPs have been submitted regularly by Steve Marsden since the start of the project.

Key Fitchburg, LLC - update

Petitions offering to give parcels on John Fitch Hwy. abutting Baker Brook to the Commission by Atty. Erb have been referred to City Property Committee, which has not yet met this year. Update at next meeting.

MACC conference - Sat., March 3, Holy Cross

Commission member were reminded of the annual MACC conference. Cost \$125 for members. The cost can be taken out of the Wetlands Protection Account. Commission agreed to invite DPW Commissioner & Hwy. Supt. to it.

David Vallee, NWS presentation in March

Tracey: The Commission and FSU will co-sponsor a presentation by Mr. Vallee on ("*Climate Trends in New England & Their Impact on River Flood Behavior*") on Thursday, March 29th 3:30 - 4:30 at FSU science center. It'll be taped by FATV. Notice to be sent to NRWA & area Conservation Commissions.

Hollis Hills Farm

Earlier in day Mike O'Hara had met w/ Jim Lattanzi, Hollis Hills Farm & Pope Energy, solar energy provider. He is considering installing up to a 3MW ground-mounted solar array on pasture land. Pasture would still be open for grazing. Issue is whether the wet areas on farm that have resulted when tiles draining the fields fell into disrepair are jurisdictional. A wetlands delineation has been done by Meridian Assocs. Commission agreed that an NOI for the wetland delineation should be filed, instead of a Request for Determination of Applicability.

Last year the Commission issued a negative Determination of Applicability for a Farm Pond. That has not yet been installed. Jim & SCS will be proposing a revised location.

Putts Pond

Tracey: Prof. Picone at FSU will be taking group of students, accompanied by Oxbow Assocs., in the spring to do an assessment of Putts Pond for Blanding's Turtles.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 2/24/2018 (*site walk @ Game On*)

Next regular meeting: 2/27/2018