

**Town of Auburn
Conservation Commission
March 3, 2020**

Members present: Jeff Porter-Chairman. Peg Donovan, Vice Chair. Richard Burnham, Member. Stephanie Hanson & Mark Ampuja, Alternate Members. Minutes recorded by Denise Royce.

Absent: Diana Heaton & Ed Fehrenbach &, Members.

Mr. Porter called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and had the Board members introduce themselves to everyone present. Mr. Porter moved right into the first discussion and turned the meeting over to Mr. Mitchell.

NEW BUSINESS

Eric Mitchell

On Behalf of Longmeadow Congregational Church

4 Wilson's Crossing Road, Tax Map 20, Lot 11-A

Discuss Culvert and Paving for Parking Lot

Mr. Mitchell began by passing out copies of a proposed plan regarding the parking area and the location of the culvert. They are proposing to submit an application to the wetlands bureau of which they plan to submit within a week or so. Mr. Mitchell talked about the proposed 24-inch culvert that will go under the new exit to the Longmeadow Church parking lot. This was proposed by the Planning Board when they went before the Board for an informal discussion. Mr. Porter commented that, he was going to put on his Planning Board hat and wanted to talk about one of the concerns that the Planning Board had regarding on street parking. Mr. Porter pointed out that there was still enough space to add more parking within the parking area for additional parking and asked Mr. Mitchell if this could be considered. Mr. Mitchell answered by saying that, this has not been submitted to the Planning Board yet as they would like to submit an application for Dredge and Fill and then submit to the Planning Board in April. Mr. Mitchell went on to point out the wetlands around the parking area and stated that the church has a budget that they would like to stick to. They would like to expand but there are some wetlands. Mr. Porter believed it was a Level 2 wetland and would rather have more parking off street as opposed to on street parking. A brief discussion ensued regarding possibly getting more parking. Mr. Mitchell understood what Mr. Porter was saying and commented that, possibly they could the extended parking could be gravel as long as the main parking lot

was paved. The Board agreed. Ms. Hanson suggested that, if they do extend the parking that they have some sort of filtration before it goes into the wetland. Mr. Mitchell pointed out the tree line and possibly putting in a berm area, so it doesn't go directly into the wetland. Mr. Porter commented that, there would be some infiltration. In conclusion, Mr. Mitchell indicated that he would take a look at that and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mr. Burnham asked where the majority of the water on the lot going. Basically, what direction would the water flow coming off the lot. Mr. Mitchell stated that, pretty much the water would flow through the culvert and then across the street. A brief discussion ensued regarding water flow. Mr. Burnham had a concern on a personal level as he lives down Route 121 and has had his driveway wash out and was worried that more water would be coming down Route 121. Mr. Mitchell understood Mr. Burnham's concern and stated that he would take a look at it further.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the Board for their time and the discussion ended. Mr. Porter moved on to discuss the Conservation Easement on the Sanborn property.

MINUTES

Mr. Burnham moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2020 as written. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

SELT

Sanborn Property

Dearborn Road, Tax Map 11, Lot 19

Discuss Conservation Easement

Mr. Porter began by informing the Board members of his conversation with Jeremy Lougee of SELT regarding the Conservation Easement on the Sanborn property. Mr. Porter stated that, it turns out that the impact for the town is less than they thought. Mr. Porter further explained the conservation and informed the Board that, what the action today would be is to poll the Board in a public fashion to see whether or not the Board would be accepting of the fact to expend up to \$160,000 for our portion of the Easement. Basically, we have a plan and if the Board would be in support and then we could move forward and get it to the Board of Selectmen to make it all happen. So, the question to the Board is, whether or not they are willing to support it. Mrs. Donovan asked Mr. Porter if a motion would be needed. Mr. Porter said yes.

Mrs. Donovan made a motion to secure the funds up to \$160,000 to move forward on the Conservation Easement for the Sanborn Property located on Dearborn Road, Tax Map 11, Lot 19. Mr. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Porter informed the Board about the property located on Dollard Road where the owners came in to see if they could put a portion of their property into a Conservation Easement. Mr. Porter indicated that he had spoken with Mr. Lougee of SELT and he indicated that he would be interested in taking a look at the property for possible placement into a Conservation Easement. A brief discussion ensued regarding the property and location to the rail trail. Mr. Porter contacted the owners and informed them that, if they are interested, they could come back before the Board in April and he could have Mr. Lougee from SELT present to talk to them about the procedure of putting a portion of the property into a Conservation Easement.

Mr. DiPietro mentioned to the Board about HB 1629 which states ***“if a municipality allows an increased density, reduced lot size, expedited approval, or other dimensional or procedural incentive under this section for the development of housing for older persons, as defined and regulated pursuant to RSA 354-A:15, it shall allow the same incentive for the development of all other types of housing development, regardless of whether a local land use ordinance or regulation specifically provides for their application to all types of housing development.”*** This bill has not passed yet.

Mr. Porter moved on to talk to the Board members about Earth Day which is in April and that they would put something together for possibly April 18th or April 25th for clean-up day where they would have hamburgers and hotdogs.

ADJOURN

Mr. Burnham moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 47 Chester Road unless otherwise noted.