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ADAMS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Fassell and Members Robinson, Bishop, and Bordeaux.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Members Lipinski

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Stockman, Stockman Associates; Jeff Randall, Hill Engineers; Diane Whalen; Carol Ostrowski; and Donna Cesan, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Fassell acknowledged that Member Lipinski was not able to participate in the meeting and delayed opening the meeting, to allow Ms. Cesan the time to telephone Member Robinson so there would be a quorum. Ms. Cesan left the room and returned later with Member Robinson, who joined the meeting at approximately 6:48 PM.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Stockman and Mr. Randall left the meeting. Chairman Fassell opened the meeting at 6:50 PM and then read the Governor's March 12, 2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Bishop, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 as written, passed unanimously.

CONTINUANCE OF NOTICE OF INTENT: filed by Cumberland Farms, Inc. requesting Commission review of its proposed convenience store with four fueling dispensers to be located at 95 Commercial Street. Reading from the applicant's letter, Chairman Fassell stated that the applicant requested additional time to review the comments of both DEP and Hill Engineers and to make any necessary revisions to their proposed plans. Chairman Fassell suggested continuing the meeting for two weeks or April 22, 2021. Ms. Cesan requested an additional week to allow the applicants and Ms. Stockman and Jeff Randall of Hill Engineers to meet with personnel from Bohler Engineering and Town staff so that everything is understood by all parties in advance of the Commission meeting. There was general agreement among the members to continue the meeting until the following Thursday, April 29.

A motion by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Bordeaux, to continue the Notice of Intent filed by Cumberland Farms, Inc. until April 29, 2021, passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion moved to closing the Emergency Order as it pertained to **Cross Street**. Member Robinson stated that the Town's contractors were moving ahead rapidly and they were already spreading grass seed on the area where water from springs had surfaced and caused erosion between residential properties located along Cross Street.

A motion by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Bishop, to close the Emergency Order relating to Cross Street, passed unanimously.

Member Robinson raised the issue of the **Letter from MassDEP** regarding trash in the river and an individual who was observed throwing trash in the Hoosic River. He stated he was concerned about the letter sent to the attention of the Conservation Commission; that it is his understanding that the situation described is "littering." He questioned, along with other members, whether it was the Commission's responsibility if there was dog feces along the bike trail? He stated he wanted to know what exactly is the responsibility of the Commission, particularly given that it was brought forward by DEP. He stated further that if somehow this is the Commission's responsibility, then this body needs to know. Member Bishop agreed and stated that it really was a matter under the jurisdiction of the police. After additional discussion, Ms. Cesan offered to prepare a letter to DEP for the Chair's signature that would request DEP clarification.

A motion by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Bishop, to prepare a letter for the Chair's signature to the attention of Mark Stinson with DEP requesting clarity of the Commission's responsibilities with regards to trash and littering passed unanimously.

Discussion moved to the resignation of Member Shafer. Commission members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Shafer's service as a member but noted that her resignation resulted in the Commission down by two members. There was discussion that the Commission needed assistance in attracting new members. Ms. Cesan offered to prepare a letter for the Chair's signature to the Board of Selectmen. There was general agreement to move forward requesting assistance from the Selectmen and other suggestions like trying to recruit new members by including a notice on the Town's website.

Discussion then moved to the house on Lime Street (first house on corner of Lime Street and East Road) that appears to be hanging over the edge of the embankment. Member Bordeaux indicated that she went by and asked if other Commission members had seen the situation. There was general agreement to obtain more information and discuss it at their next meeting.


REVIEW MAIL: There was no mail for review at the meeting.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date will be Thursday, April 29, 2021.

ADJOURN: A motion by Member Robinson, seconded by Member Bishop, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Recording Secretary


Date