**APPROVED**

**ADAMS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Chairman James Fassell, Vice-Chairman Corey Bishop and Commission members Brian Bishop, Tom Robinson, Tammie Shafer and David Lipinski

**OTHERS PRESENT**: Amer Raza; Steven C. Thompson; Sharon Burke; Richard Hathaway; Jack Guerino, iBerkshires and Recording Secretary Pam Gerry

**CALL TO ORDER**: Chairman Fassell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion made by Vice-Chairman Corey Bishop, seconded by Member Lipinski to approve the minutes of March 21, 2019, as submitted, passed unanimously.

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: filed by MassDOT, Highway Division. Applicant is requesting whether the work depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to Wetlands Protection Act for the resurfacing and reconstruction of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, property located in the Town of Adams.**

Chairman Fassell stated to the members that the Conservation Commission received a correspondence from Bill Lattrell, ecological consultant for the Town of Adams which he took a moment to read aloud. He stated to the applicant that a Notice of Intent had been submitted to the Conservation Commission when the rail trail was first constructed, noting that they were not required to file again.

Mr. Raza, representing MassDot addressed the Commission members stating to them that the applicant proposed to resurface and reconstruct the existing Ashuwilticook Rail Trail beginning at the Berkshire Mall, Lanesboro, MA to the Visitor’s Center in Adams. He told them that they would be removing and replacing 1 ¾ inch of the top layer and relayering it to the same thickness. Mr. Raza stated that they were going to eliminate any root systems that are damaging the trail. He distributed some photos to the members of areas that they would be performing the work.

Chairman Fassell read a section of Mr. Lattrell’s recommendations to the members stating “that if the Commission determined that the work would non-impair the buffer of MA Wetland Protection Act and would not alter the protected resource and resurfacing of the trail and addressing the area along the edge of the trail with gravel loaming and reseeding that this would be acceptable.”

Chairman Fassell stated that he had concern with similar work being performed in other areas near streams or steep banks. Mr. Raza assured the members that there were no other existing banks on the trail.

Vice-Chairman Bishop showed concern about the roots that would be removed from the area of the trail or milled down. Mr. Azar stated that they would be excavating and cutting on the edge of the rail trail only.

Member Lipinski addressed Mr. Azar to ask him if he was concerned with damaged trees that could possibly fall onto the trail in time as they begin digging up the roots. Vice-Chairman Bishop added that the members appreciate understanding the process in the early stages of their reconstruction of the trail.

Chairman Fassell addressed Mr. Azar by stating that he indicated that there would only be one area of the trail that would be repaired on the bank. Vice-Chairman Bishop looked for clarification from Mr. Azar regarding his cleanup process. He explained to the members that the culverts and catch basins would be cleaned along the rail trail by a vacuum truck, adding that the debris would be relocated to their depot site for disposal.

Member Shafer asked Mr. Azar when the proposed project would begin. He stated that they would start a portion of the work this year but the majority of the work would be performed in 2020.

A motion was made by Member Lipinski, seconded by Member Shafer to accept the Request for Determination with a Negative 2 with three (3) conditions, passed unanimously.

1. **The culvert clean out shall be completed with a vacuum truck and disposed off-site at a MassDOT location.**
2. **Silt protection shall be in place prior to the start of the work.**
3. **The applicant shall notify the Conservation Commission prior to the commencement of the project.**

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS: Sharon Burke, EHS Manager; Specialty Minerals will be present to discuss the quarterly reports with the Conservation Commission members.**

The Commission met with Specialty Minerals Works Manager Steven Thompson and EHS Manager Sharon Burke to discuss various projects their company would be proposing in the future as well as mentioning work that would be performed in the quarry.

The Commission members had various concerns that they addressed with Mr. Thompson and Ms. Burke during their informal meeting.

* Expanding the landfill
* Lowering the height of the hills near the quarry
* Process ponds to capture high PH water
* Well curtain
* In closing. members thanked Mr. Thompson and Ms. Burke for appearing before the Conservation Commission to address their concerns.

**REVIEW MAIL:**

**ADJOURN:**

A motion made by Member Lipinski, seconded by Vice-Chairman Corey Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Pamela Gerry Date