

Leominster Conservation Commission Meeting
6:01 pm, July 25, 2023

Jim Chambers, Stephanie Quinlan, Bob Sicard, Vice Chair Richard Gullick, and Conservation Agent Nick Kremp present.

60 Harwood Terr (DEP File #199-1147)

Chris Anderson, Hannigan Engineering, and Chuck Caron, Caron Environmental Consulting, presented on the project. Mr. Anderson related the collapse of the slope surrounding an 18" storm drain which drains water from above the driveway. A large amount of sediment and water was sent down the stream and deposited sediment and gravel in piles throughout the stream bed down to the catch basin on Hillery Road. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Caron were now here to present a proposal for restoration of the stream's capacity through excavation of the sediment and depositing this along the down slope side of the bank.

Mr. Brennecke, the property owner, clarified that the driveway will not be paved in its final form but will consist of permeable, hard-packed gravel.

Mr. Kremp answered a question from Dr. Gullick about the local stormwater ordinance and the general review process as it might have been applied to this project. He stated that upon talking with John Roseberry of Leominster Department of Public Works (DPW), the DPW only reviews stormwater plans of projects which are tying into a municipal stormwater system. Mr. Anderson followed that up by reminding the Commission that as a single-family house, this project was exempt from state stormwater standards. However, Hannigan Engineering did design the stormwater design of the slope to accommodate the flow coming off the slope.

Chuck Caron presented on the restoration plan. He stated that the project will consist of two phases. Phase one will be clearing out the sediment and stones immediately at the base of the slope near the slope failure. This will be done with a mini-excavator. Mr. Caron also proposes some wetland plantings of Winterberry and Spicebush to stabilize and restore the site. The second phase will be removal of the sediment from the streambed further downslope all the way to Hillery Road. The sediment will be removed by hand with hand tools. Where the stream was seen to overtop its banks, Mr. Caron proposes depositing the sediment from the streambed on the downslope side of the bank. Specific areas of work and depth of sediment removal will be determined in the field by direct supervision from Mr. Caron.

Mrs. Quinlan expressed concern that the restoration work does not divert the water towards another property in avoidance of 50 Hillery. Mr. Caron stated that their aim is to return the stream depth and flow to its original state and capacity.

Ian Fraser, 50 Hillery, made a comment that he supports whatever solutions that will keep water from flooding down the hill into his property.

Mrs. Quinlan made a motion to accept the restoration plan as presented. Mr. Cichy seconded.

Bobrek analysis update

Mr. Kremp recounted his communications with John Bobrek. Mr. Bobrek had been out of town until recently but is back at work and will proceed with his review of the documents and will be in touch about scheduling a site visit.

Pursuant to MGL CH 131 § 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Leominster Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family house and associated site work in a wetland buffer zone and riverfront area of Monoosnoc Brook. Address View Street (Lot 1), Map and Parcel 123-14-1 . DEP File # not yet assigned.

Mr. Kremp stated that MassDEP had just released their comments and file number on this project but there was no time for Mr. Dimassa to respond. He may also need to redesign the project so he will be returning to the Commission meeting on August 8 to address the comments.

Mr. Sicard made a motion to continue the hearing until the next meeting. Mrs. Quinlan seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Pursuant to MGL CH 131 § 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Leominster Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on a Notice of Intent for tree removal, construction of a coop, and associated machine work. Address 445 North Street, Map and Parcel 289-1 . DEP File #199-1173.

The hearing was not opened. Mr. Kremp gave a brief update that Norse Environmental will be on site next week to reflag the wetland boundary.

Extension permit - 495 Main Street (DEP File #199-1111)

Mr. Kremp explained that the order was for the construction of a new commercial building and parking lot improvements. The building is complete but they need more time to finish the lot work. Mrs. Quinlan made a motion to extend the expiration date to July 26, 2024. Mr. Sicard seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting Minutes -

November 8, 2022

Mrs. Quinlan made a motion to accept the minutes as they appear on the drive file with edits. Dr. Gullick seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment

Mrs. Quinlan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sicard seconded. Motion passed 4-0.