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**City of Amesbury**  
**Lakes and Waterways Commission**  
Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2023  
7:00 PM  
Location: Virtual Webcast Meeting

Attendees: Tom Murphy - Acting Chair, Cindy Roberts, Tom Volper, Bernadette Lucas, and Art O'Dea  
Guest: Stephanie Hanson  
Completing Minutes: Art O'Dea

I. Administrative Business

A. Call to Order

- This meeting is being conducted under the Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021, by Governor Baker. Public access to participate has been made available.
- Tom Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and stated a quorum has been met.

II. Engineer's Update

A. Engineer's Report

- Tom Murphy reported the water levels in the city's watershed are all at normal levels. Personnel within the DPW and Water Treatment Facility are managing the structures within the watershed.

III. Current Business

A. Membership Status

- Tom Murphy, as Assistant Chair, offered the position of Chair to the group; no one was interested at this time.

B. Open Spaces Committee

- Tom Volper provided an update on the *ad hoc* Committee on open spaces. A consultant report on the Principles and Policies for Stewardship of Amesbury Conservation Land is due by the end of June, a draft of which was discussed in the previous meeting. As a follow-up to the previous review and discussion, and with the consensus of the Commission, Tom Murphy sent an email to Mayor Gove, the Conservation Agent for the City, and the City Planner on May 31, 2023 expressing feedback (and corrections to the draft) from the Commission. In general, the Commission views the document as an important step for the conservation of land resources, but without a comprehensive approach that includes the City's water resources, an opportunity to devote attention and resources towards a comprehensive management plan could be missed.

C. 604(b) Grant

- Stephanie Hanson, a consultant engaged by the city under the 604(b) grant, was present on the call and provided an update and status. The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) developed under the project has been approved and is currently routed for signatures. It is

expected in mid-July that a review of the stormwater management sites will be scheduled. Stephanie then provided a summary of the highlights of each of the studied waterbodies.

D. MS4 Review

- Tom Murphy stated that an update on the status of a review of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Plan is not clear. Tom volunteered to contact Joe Buckley, the new Director of the DPW for the city before the next meeting to get an update and current status, and to inquire on representation by the DPW on the Commission.

E. Solar Farm

- A discussion was held on the proposed solar farm on the Vynorious' parcel 45-4 proposed by Syncarpha Capital LLC, the NY investment company. Tom Murphy reported he sent a letter outlining the concerns raised by the Commission in its last meeting, specifically that the potential for stormwater run-off from the property will likely impact both Meadowbrook Pond and Lake Attitash. It was noted that the location of the project was intentionally made to avoid jurisdiction of the conservation commission leaving approval of the project within the planning board. Tom volunteered to send a follow-up message to the Planning Board staff to again outline the concerns to better inform the planning board prior to any approvals.

F. Miscellaneous Items

- Cindy Roberts reported on the status of the pilot project to purchase, install, and evaluate phosphorus removal apparatus in six catch basins near and around Lake Attitash. The units have been received and the DPW is coordinating the installation.

IV. Adjournment

- The next meeting is planned for August 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM
- Cindy Roberts moved to adjourn, and Art O'Dea seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.