

APPROVED

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 2016**

---

**City Hall Auditorium  
62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913  
8:30 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE: Dennis Moccia, Adrienne Lennon, Alan Corey, Steve Langlois  
Also John Lopez, Conservation Agent and Barbara Foley, recording secretary.  
Transcription: Joni Baptiste**

**ABSENT: Suzanne Egan, Kinsey Boehl**

Chairman Langlois calls the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance for 23 Clinton Street DEP #002-1125**

**John Lopez:** Construction of a single family house within buffer zone to jurisdictional resources. There was one outstanding issue pursuant to a monitoring report that was the failure of four shrubs to thrive. An email was sent to the applicant giving them a couple of options on how to remedy that. She took the most appropriate option and bought four plants and installed them. There were slight modifications to the approved project one of which I approved as a field adjustment for the additional clearance of some trees in the back yard. In exchange for granite posts to be installed along the limit of work affixed to each is an Amesbury Conservation Commission no cut medallion. That more than offsets the removal of additional trees. This was done to facilitate a more functional backyard for the property owners. Unless the commission has any outstanding issues I recommend approval of the Certificate of Compliance for DEP #002-1125.

**Motion by Alan Corey to approve the certificate of compliance for 23 Clinton Street 002-1125, second by Adrienne Lennon. (4) AIF**

~~

**Request for Certificate of Compliance for 1 Riverfront Drive, DEP #002-0815**

**John Lopez:** This was part of a subdivision (Merrimack Landing) which had a lot of outstanding issues. In this particular case, the properties were all sold, homeowners were not aware of an order of conditions, the property was sold from the developer to a sub-developer who simply asked Mr. Charette where he wanted his back yard. Mr. Charette said “over there” and “over there” constituted a significant removal of trees which were not approved. One of the solutions was to install granite bounds along the limit of work many of which appeared overnight in the middle of back yards all of which have now been removed. In the case of Mr. Charette, the limits of work are along the back limit of work. The boundaries were moved back. No cut medallions have been affixed to each. I recommend approval for 002-0815 for 1 Riverfront Drive.

**Adrienne Lennon:** Is there any impervious surface in the area of concern?

**John Lopez:** No, it’s just a lawn.

**Alan Corey:** This Certificate of Compliance is only for 1 Riverfront Drive not other lots.

APPROVED

**John Lopez:** No, all the other lots that were in noncompliance required the installation of granite bounds as well as a document from the current property owners stating that they have been made aware of the order of conditions as well as the perpetual conditions. I trust that the new owners are aware of the conditions.

**Motion by Alan Corey to approve the certificate of compliance for 1 Riverfront Drive DEP #002-0815, second by Adrienne Lennon. (4) AIF**

~

**Whittier Hill Friend Street Woodsom Farm special event. Essex County Greenbelt Association**

**John Lopez:** This comes to the commission because you have jurisdiction over conservation land and also there is a portion of the proposed activity that is within the jurisdiction to state and local wetlands laws. There is one outstanding enforcement order for an unauthorized event that took place on Woodsom Farm that resulted in damage to wetland resources. Also we have had a number of mud runs that attracted hundreds of people that went through the permitting process.

**Vanessa Johnson:** This activity is proposed to happen prior to our next schedule meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. This began because I filed a request to use Woodsom Farms for this free family oriented event on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and when I went to the hearing in August it was made clear to me that the route of the trail run that we are proposing in the hike route could potentially be in the wetlands area and they recommended that I speak to Mr. Lopez who was on vacation during that period. We have since had conversation. We are proposing to use the cross country route that is currently very highly used by the community for a less than 3 mile trial run on Sunday morning the 18<sup>th</sup> of September at 9:00 a.m. followed by the opportunity for the community to hike up to the Greenbelt Whittier Hill Friend Street project site. This is designed as an opportunity to raise the profile of the project, inform the community about what we're doing, and build awareness.

To mitigate any opportunity for damage, we typically have participants sign a waiver. In this case I have amended our standard waiver to say that you agree to stay on the designated path. It would be verbally reinforced at the beginning of the trial run. The path is narrow with foliage on either side. We coordinated with Police, Fire, DPW regarding trash and recycling. We typically flag the path. We will have people at the four intersections (top of Lions Mouth Road, Friend Street, Whittier (Whitcher) Court) which is what the police recommended. In terms of damage, we can go through the course after the run.

**Dennis Moccia:** The wettest area is where the run crosses the brook, and where the brook is fed where there is an overlap between the hike and run there is a moist area there. How can you monitor trash.

**Vanessa Johnson:** We will go through after to inspect.

**John Lopez:** I think a walk through after the run is appropriate. The applicant will submit an RDA then if a negative determination is made, it will be good for three years.

**Robert Lavoie District 4 City Councilor:** If you will put this applicant through any regiment, does the high school cross country team have an RDA?

**John Lopez:** I just became aware of the High School using this route.

**Robert Lavoie:** Those trails have been there forever. The sensitive area that you mention in the spring has water on both sides. In terms of impacts on resource areas, if people stay on the trial there will not be impacts.

It would seem to me that this is a well-known well-used trail. Once upon a time this could have had a notice of intent with a permanent condition that people using the farm would stay on the trial. I don't want to see Woodsom Farm abused, but I don't want to see it over-regulated.

**Alan Corey:** What is our legal course of action if there is damage?

APPROVED

**Robert Lavoie:** They are bound under the agreement that they signed with the City to restore any damage and to be financially responsible for any damage they cause.

**Adrienne Lennon:** I think the areas of sensitivity should be flagged and identify them for all.

**Steve Langlois:** The RDA will be submitted post race at the next ConCom meeting.

**Motion by Alan Corey to approve the special event dated September 18 presented by the Essex County Greenbelt Association pursuant to the document which was produced dated August 24, 2016. Said event will be limited to the trail which is identified in the aforementioned document with the stipulation that the applicant will submit a request for determination of applicability for the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting by August 29<sup>th</sup>, second by Adrienne Lennon. (4) AIF**

**Motion by Steve Langlois to adjourn at 9:28 a.m., second by Adrienne Lennon. AIF**