

Town of Franklin



Conservation Commission

**March 7, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

As stated on the agenda, this meeting is available to be attended in person and via the Zoom platform. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number, or citizens can participate by using the Zoom link provided on the agenda. This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, for citizens wishing to attend in person.

Commencement

Vice Chair Mark LePage called the above-captioned meeting to order this date at 7:00 PM as a remote/virtual/in-person meeting. Members in attendance: Mark LePage, Jeff Livingstone, Jeffrey Milne, Richard Johnson, Michael Rein, Roger Trahan. Absent: None. Also present: Breeka Li Goodlander, Conservation Agent; Tyler Paslaski, Administrative Assistant.

Note: Documents presented to the Conservation Commission are on file.

Mr. Livingstone discussed the MACC conference. He said they are really pushing hard for the virtual online program series. He said when he joined the Commission years ago, it was required that people complete the 12-part series. He reviewed that the new online program is much more in-depth than previously. Mr. Milne said that he had his certificate.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing – NOI – 15 Liberty Way

Mr. Scott Goddard of Goddard Consulting (via Zoom) shared his screen and reviewed a new graphic and provided an update. He pointed out the subject site and some resource areas. He said that on site were created stormwater infrastructure of one type or another from prior developments that did not require a Notice of Intent for construction. He said north of the site is a stormwater basin which is flagged which he explained. He said it is overgrown with weedy vegetation. He said in the development, there is the development of some type of channel. As required by BETA, it is designated as BVW on the plan. He pointed out a swale, check dam, and retention pond. He discussed that the berm that holds back the stormwater basin on the northern property line has a leak in it. He said the leak has created a situation now that are isolated wetlands. He said there is a non-jurisdictional dug ditch in the middle of the site that a small machine dug decades ago. He said everything out there is part of stormwater infrastructure and that is why it is here today. He said the application is to take the existing Liberty Way driveway associated with the building and expand it to the north. He said the purple zone is the expansion area. He said there has been encouragement to consider doing mitigation for the lost IVWs, albeit, the manner of their creation. He said instead of pushing back on that, they evaluate on what would happen if the parking lot was scaled down to reduce the amount of IVWs that were altered to create the parking lot, which is what this plan reflects in concept as it is not a fully engineered plan. He explained that they would continue to improve the failing stormwater system on the left-hand side. He said this is what they are working with to better satisfy the goals of the bylaw. He said he wanted to discuss this with the

Commission before it goes into an engineered redesign. He noted there was an infiltration basin that sits underneath the parking area, and that design has not changed.

Ms. Goodlander said she has not seen this prior to tonight, so she does not have any comments.

Vice Chair LePage confirmed the parking lot used to be up to the border on the north. Mr. Goodard said yes. In response to a question, Mr. Goddard pointed out and explained there is a drain line easement. He said the proposal is not to touch that. He discussed that there is an area in blue that could be used for replication, and the basin itself is a form of replication.

Vice Chair LePage confirmed the Commission requested scaled-back parking, and they did that. He said they would like to see more formal replication when they come back with the plan. It was noted if it needs to be a 2:1 replication or not.

Ms. Goodlander said that the last time the applicant was before the Commission, they were outside of the easement, but at that time Chair Hagen raised the concern about planting on the top of the slopes so close to the easements. She said the applicant still needs to be in compliance with Mass. stormwater standards; they have to work with Planning Board as well. Vice Chair LePage said that the Commission would like to see the replication ratio when they come back.

Ms. Goodlander said that she did receive no communication for a good amount of time on this project. She said it sounds like the project is moving forward. She said she asks to acquiesce to her normal work schedule and to not put things on the Commission at the last minute for review. Vice Chair LePage said they would like some type of posting as to status before the next meeting.

There was a motion made by Roger Trahan to continue the NOI for 15 Liberty Way to March 21, 2024, at 7:01 PM. The motion was seconded by Michael Rein and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – ANRAD – Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical HS

Mr. Steve Powers of Samiotes Consultants (via Zoom) and Superintendent Karen Maguire (via Zoom) addressed the Commission. Mr. Powers shared his screen and gave an overview of the projects and process during the past few weeks. He said the high school is located in the center of the project. They have a number of downgradient wetlands that were flagged in the field by their wetland consultant Brad Holmes of ECR. He said they have reached agreement on all of the green areas with Ms. Goodlander and the peer reviewer. He said there were leftover comments from the peer reviewer, mostly with regard to the solar field, which is what they have been working on over the past few weeks. He said they submitted last Friday to Ms. Goodlander and BETA to take a look at what they were proposing. He showed and reviewed the additional field delineation as part of the resubmitted package. He said the intent of these highlighted areas were stormwater management features proposed as part of the solar field development. He said it only went through site plan development through the Planning Board. He said recently they got more information on a tricky basin in the southwest. He explained that Mr. Holmes went out and did the delineation. He said they did a site walk with BETA, Ms. Goodlander, and Mr. Holmes and located the puddles which were identified by BETA which under the local bylaw were identified as wetlands. He said they did not delineate them; however, their field crew did pick up the edge of the puddles while they were out in the field. He discussed the southwest basin. He said previously there was an outstanding basin which he discussed. He explained they found some old records, and they have submitted those documents. He explained that the initial stormwater feature was proposed, but they ran into ledge. He said the condo owners down to the south were complaining due to the noise. The contractor and their engineer worked with people in the Town to relocate an equivalent volume and area which ended up to be in the

southwest basin. He said he hopes BETA finds the same findings that this is a stormwater management feature that was approved by the Town. As such, this would be a jurisdictional area according to the bylaw. He said they would like feedback regarding that although these are isolated vegetative wetlands under the bylaw, would the Commission consider these purple areas, as they are drainage ditches, actually jurisdictional areas that would be replicated. In response to a question, he noted that all the purple areas added together would be about 3,000 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft. Vice Chair LePage noted that this is an ANRAD, and this is for the delineation.

Ms. Goodlander said this encompasses what was discussed in the field. She thanked them for listing them as puddles. She said this is for the transparency of the ANRAD. She said that when the Commission goes through their review of the most recent submission, photos are included, so the Commission can go on their own field visit to look at the puddles and IVW. She said she thinks they are nearing the end of the ANRAD process.

Vice Chair LePage said the applicant is looking for feedback. Mr. Johnson said that he cannot see why they would make those areas jurisdictional. He said they were there to drain it away so it collects all the water, and why we would try to make a wetland out of it is beyond him. Vice Chair LePage said it seems like with the IVW in the southwest corner, maybe they have an opportunity to have an educational experience for students. He said he thinks it would be great to look at a component of this to encompass some replication overall. He said he thinks that would go a long way. He said he agrees with Mr. Johnson and does not want to hold your feet to the fire on puddles; he said there is an opportunity to do something really nice with this. Mr. Powers said that is a great point and something they have discussed at great length.

Ms. Goodlander said she would like to offer additional information. She explained the pictures are important, and the Commission should pay attention to those. She confirmed the Commission members would need a guide to go out there as it is fenced.

Mr. Rein asked about the southwest corner being IVW and asked if that was set in stone. Ms. Goodlander said she and John say this would qualify as IVW. She noted related information in her agent's report.

Mr. Powers said he appreciates the feedback.

There was a motion made by Michael Rein to continue the ANRAD for Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical HS to March 21, 2024, at 7:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Jeff Livingstone and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – NOI – Proposed Solar Array – Parcel 3, 160 Maple Street

Mr. Greg DiBona of Bohler (via Zoom) and Mr. Dan Wells of LEC Environmental (via Zoom) addressed the Commission. Mr. DiBona said at the meeting two weeks ago they reviewed the revised plans, and he provided a summary. He said they submitted all the documents, and they received BETA's updated review two days ago. He said one item in the letter which they addressed was they still needed a DEP number; that was resolved yesterday. He said there are some suggested conditions of approval which they are comfortable with. He said there were a few items from BETA that they suggested the Commission weigh in on. He said one item had to do with an evaluation of two wetland sections as vernal pools. He explained that they said they were not evaluated as vernal pools. He said BETA agreed with that, but wanted the Commission to weigh in on that that.

Mr. Jonathan Niro of BETA reviewed that they did not qualify as vernal pools. He said it is a matter of if the Commission wants anything more formal such as a letter from the applicant; otherwise, they agree with it. Vice Chair LePage requested a detailed letter about this from the applicant. Mr. Wells gave an explanation and said that he can provide a letter restating the information. He noted that there were two vernal pools that did meet the criteria. Vice Chair LePage confirmed the Commission is good with this item with a letter.

Mr. DiBona reviewed the second item W6 which related to a comment about changing out the perimeter controls to 12-inch compost filter tubes. He said they did do that and added the detail. He said they would like to keep the silt fence as a secondary means. He said the recommendation was to not have any silt fence. He would like the Commission's determination. Ms. Goodlander said it is standard practice for the Commission to condition bio-degradable wattles. She said in an effort to keep it fair to all applicants, she recommended that is what should be conditioned. Mr. DiBona said he would go along with a condition that all erosion controls be removed at the end of the project. Ms. Goodlander said erosion controls are not removed until the applicant comes for a COC. Vice Chair LePage asked what is the concern about using just bio-degradable wattles. Mr. DiBona explained the need for a secondary silt fence. Vice Chair LePage said they are good with that.

Mr. DiBona said the next item is W12. He said this is about adding cross-sectional details for the wetland restoration areas. He said they did not provide cross sections for the wetlands. He said they do not need to provide the cross sections as the plans are pretty clear about the improvements. Mr. Niro said the cross sections are in the bylaw regulations. He said in the scheme of things on this replication area of about 2,000 sq. ft., the execution in the field is what makes it successful. In this case, he agrees that a cross section would not really add any surety to the success of the replication plan. Vice Chair LePage asked Mr. DiBona if he was good with a condition that they will look at it after the excavation which will eliminate the cross sections. Mr. DiBona said he is good with that.

Mr. DiBona discussed item W16 which has to do with the mowing frequency. He said they have it mowed twice a year, and there is a recommendation to do it only once per year. He said he would like it to be twice a year to be consistent with what they did with the project on the north. Mr. Niro said that once a year is better for wildflowers; however, with a twice a year mowing, they are still going to get some functional value to the area. He said this is up to the Commission. He said on solar projects they tend to not mow it to the ground and usually leave it 3 in. to 6 in. high. Mr. Johnson confirmed that the applicant would not want the vegetation to grow and disturb the panels. Vice Chair LePage confirmed the reason is to keep the solar panels clear. Mr. DiBona said mowing twice a year is a more manageable situation. Vice Chair LePage said they would be good with the two and to keep consistency with the north.

Mr. DiBona said item W22 has to do with the submitted alternative analysis. He explained the plan they provided. He discussed the comment with the plan was that they are still relying on the one wetland crossing to occur because it is the only way to get to the western portion of the site. He said his response is that there is no alternative to not show that crossing which is already a crossing for the golf course, and also it is a non-feasible alternative. He said if they lost half the site, the site would not function, and it would not be able to be developed for solar.

Mr. Rein said that portion looks like it touches the road so there must be a good reason why they cannot come in from the road; is that not a valid access point. Mr. DiBona said the only access road is from the north project. He explained the location of a wetland there. Mr. DiBona said they resubmitted plans to Planning Board that addressed stormwater comments and their responses to that. He said they have a

planning Board meeting on March 25. He said they have not seen BETA's peer review response to their resubmission of the drainage items.

Mr. Rein said DEP commented that loss of trees could adversely impact the vernal pool. Ms. Goodlander said BETA took the lead on this project. She explained these areas do not have a lot of tree cover at this time. She discussed vernal pools. Mr. Niro discussed the vernal pool areas. Mr. DiBona said the comment made by DEP was based on the original submittal plan, not the plan where they showed all the restoration. He said they do intend to reply to DEP with all the restoration plans.

Mr. DiBona said they agree they are getting close to the end. He said they will keep following up with BETA and Planning Board. He said he will look forward to coming back in two weeks to hopefully wrap it up.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to continue the NOI for the Proposed Solar Array for Parcel 3, 160 Maple, Street to March 21, 2024, at 7:03 PM. The motion was seconded by Roger Trahan and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – NOI – 121 Grove Street – Waiver Request

Ms. Goodlander stated the applicant requested a continuance. She said she had a meeting with Building Commission Gus Brown, Town Engineer Michael Maglio, Mr. John Shipe, project manager, Mr. Rob Hewitt of Fairfield Residential, and Mr. Joe Halligan, representing the property owner, to talk about a path forward regarding Conservation threads. She said they worked through that. She said they wanted clarification on the waiver request letter from the Commission. She said she provided clarification on the bylaws. She said they will be going back to ZBA, and hopefully, ZBA will vote on the waiver request so we have a clear directive on where to go. She said the applicant is reviewing BETA's peer review letter, and she hopes they have a response letter.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to continue the NOI for 121 Grove Street, Waiver Request, to March 21, 2024, at 7:04 PM. The motion was seconded by Richard Johnson and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – NOI – 100-110 East Central Street

Mr. Brad Chaffee, owner/applicant, and Mr. Rick Goodreau of United Consultants addressed the Commission. Mr. Goodreau said they have integrated the review comments into the design and revised plan submissions with the Planning Department and Conservation Commission. He said they have received a peer review letter from BETA. He said they are in pretty good shape. He said there are a few instances where recommendations were made for some conditions.

Mr. Jonathan Niro of BETA said the applicant essentially addressed all the comments. He said the applicant has demonstrated compliance with all bylaw requirements, and they have provided more robust mitigation at the site including increased plantings. He said some of the comments were administrative, and those were addressed. He noted that standard conditions were recommended. He said BETA has no further comments.

Ms. Goodlander said she recommended approval with conditions (conditions inclusive of latest review). Standard Special Conditions: 20-41, 46-51; and, Special Condition 52: Flags UC-5 and UC-6 are not approved under these Conditions as they are located outside of the site boundaries on private property.

Ms. Goodlander noted for the record that she did not include a special condition outside of the standard special conditions about seeding with native plants, but that was in the proposal.

There was a motion made by Richard Johnson to approve the NOI for 100-110 East Central Street with the conditions as stated. The motion was seconded by Roger Trahan and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – RDA – 6 Forge Parkway

Mr. Michael Malynowski of Allen & Major Associates (via Zoom) and Mr. Joe Geoghegan of Tidemark (via Zoom) addressed the Commission. Mr. Malynowski explained that all of the disturbance for this project is outside the 100 ft. buffer. He said that is why they are asking for an RDA. He said at the last meeting, Ms. Goodlander had not had a chance to review the wetland line delineated by Goddard Consulting, along with the letter/report that was provided.

Ms. Goodlander confirmed she reviewed it and has no comments.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to close the RDA for 6 Forge Parkway. The motion was seconded by Richard Johnson and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

There was a motion made by Richard Johnson for a negative determination for the RDA for 6 Forge Parkway. The motion was seconded by Jeff Livingstone and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – NOI – South Street, Miscoe Brook

Assistant Town Engineer Brooke Morganelli addressed the Commission for a Town project within a water resource for an NOI for culvert replacement work at South Street within Miscoe Brook. The proposed replacement is intended to replace the existing degraded and undersized culvert with a new MA Stream Crossing compliant, open bottom, three-sided box culvert. The project includes new concrete headwalls, new steel guardrails, and a resurfaced roadway.

Mr. Peter Engle with TEC summarized the project. He explained the old existing crossing. He said that would be coming out. He explained the new stream crossing culvert. He said there is ecological value in replacing the culvert. He explained some of the resource area impacts. He said the land under water will be increased. He said all in all there will be positive impacts to resource areas and improvement to the crossing.

Ms. Goodlander said she will put on record that any upgrade from a culver to a stream crossing is something that she feels is a benefit. She said that for all standards but one, this project is optimum for stream crossing standards. She said she will make the Commission aware that this is probably the first of many culvert retrofits. She discussed a software that has all stormwater infrastructure catalogued. She said she has not had the time to review this project extensively.

Mr. Engle said they have been in touch with DEP. He said DEP considers this brook navigable, so they have filed for a Chapter 91 permit.

Mr. Jonathan Niro of BETA explained the Chapter 91 definition of navigable. He asked if MassDOT has completed the review. Mr. Engle said they have gone through one iteration with them; the design plans are back with MassDOT and waiting for approval. He said they need to get the Chapter 91 license first.

Mr. Livingstone asked if there was a public safety issue. Ms. Goodlander said she asked, but was not told it was a public safety issue at this time.

There was a motion made by Roger Trahan to continue the NOI for South Street, Miscoe Brook, to March 21, 2024, at 7:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Michael Rein and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Public Hearing – NOI – Beaver Pond Hydro-Raking

Assistant Town Engineer Brooke Morganelli addressed the Commission for a Town project within a water resource for a previously approved NOI for a proposed Ecological Restoration Project for hydro-raking to remove nuisance vegetation to prevent eutrophication in a portion of Beaver Pond. The project area is located just southwest of the floating dock within the pond extending northeast and ending at the shoreline. She said they have used Solitude Lake Management in the past, and the last time this was done was in 2020. She noted that Beaver Pond is used as a swimming area in the summer. The proposed work includes the removal of the vegetation and bottom debris by mechanical means. She explained hydro-raking. She said it is different from dredging. It can disturb bottom; however, impacts are typically limited to the surrounding worksite. She explained that suspended sediments will likely settle in a short amount of time. The hydro-raking barge will access Beaver Pond from the existing boat launch to minimize further resource area disturbance. Temporary storage of any removed materials will take place on-site and be disposed of within 24 hours. She said she is not positive if Beaver Pond has to be closed or not when this is done; she will check.

Ms. Goodlander said the last NOI has expired and cannot be extended any further. She recommended continuance and noted the DEP number was not received yet.

There was a motion made by Michael Rein to continue the NOI for Beaver Pond Hydro-Raking to March 21, 2024, at 7:06 PM. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Milne and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Friendly 40B Local Initiative Program (LIP): None.

Minor Buffer Zone Activities: None.

Request for Determination of Applicability: Beaver Pond Kayak Launch

Ms. Goodlander explained this RDA is for a proposed EZ Dock and associated pad installation at Beaver Pond within Chilson Beach. She said Mr. Ryan Jette of the Recreation Department has been working on putting in a kayak launch. She said this would increase recreation outdoors. She explained that it is a small pad, but she does not know the square footage. She said the project is de minimis in nature, and the majority of it is considered temporary. She said this is the trial. She said the location at DelCorte would be tricky. She said she recommended approval with a negative determination. She said she would defer to the Commission if they want the square footage impact before they vote. She said there are other fun things that Mr. Jette is doing which she noted.

There was a motion made by Jeff Livingstone to approve the negative determination for the Request for Determination of Applicability for Beaver Pond Kayak Launch. The motion was seconded by Roger Trahan and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Mr. Livingstone pointed out the concrete mass at DelCarte. Ms. Goodlander said it is on the agenda for the next meeting.

Permit Modifications/Extensions: None.

Certificates of Compliance: 380 Beaver Street Chilson Park (CE159-1231)

Assistant Town Engineer Brooke Morganelli addressed the Commission. She said that in 2021, this was opened. She said there were upgrades to the existing playground, practice field, and more. She discussed that they found a structure that was buried. She said the mitigation area was shifted. She said they installed additional trees and more. She is requesting a certificate of compliance for that.

There was a motion made by Richard Johnson to approve the Certificate of Compliance for 380 Beaver Street Chilson Park (CE159-1231). The motion was seconded by Roger Trahan and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Violations/Enforcement: 305 Union Street

Ms. Goodlander confirmed this could go on for years.

There was a motion made by Richard Johnson to approve the Violation/Enforcement for 305 Union Street for another 30 days. The motion was seconded by Michael Rein and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Ms. Goodlander said there is the possibly that the Commission could drop the enforcement. She said if the Commission would like her to reach out to DEP, she can. She said she has been advised by town counsel because she (the owner) has received counsel to let them take care of it on their side. Ms. Goodlander said she (the owner) is looking to sell.

Minutes: February 22, 2024

There was a motion made by Roger Trahan to approve the meeting minutes for February 22, 2024. The motion was seconded by Jeff Livingstone and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

Discussions: Appointments

Vice Chair LePage said the thought process is to have Jeff Livingstone step back up as chair and Mr. Lepage continue as vice chair. Mr. Livingstone said he was fine with stepping in and when Mr. LePage feels comfortable with being chair, he can step in.

There was no motion or second made to approve Jeff Livingstone as chair. No roll call vote made. Voice vote: approved.

Chair and Commission Comments: Friends of Franklin Liaison Update

Mr. Rein said Patrick Gallagher had to step down from leading Friends of Franklin, so he and Mr. Trahan are going to co-lead it. He said they had a meeting on March 4, and Ms. Goodlander went through a list of plans. He said he took notes. He said they will be celebrating Earth Month. There will be a Pizza Party at 4:30 PM to 6 PM on April 4. He said he received an email from the Town today about it. Ms. Goodlander said the email came from her. She reviewed that April 8 is a solar eclipse, so the Pizza Party will be cosmic. She said it will be held in the Training Room. She will display a YouTube video about the solar eclipse during the Pizza Party event. She said the event was open to all ages. She said the information will

get out by her email blast and information posted on the Conservation page. She said she met with the new director of arts, culture, and the creative economy, and she will create a calendar for Earth Month.

Mr. Rein discussed the potential to do woods walks in April. He said the Recreation Department is doing a cleanup on April 20. Ms. Goodlander talked about the combination of Recreation Department and the Commission for April 20 for Earth Month from 9 AM to 12 PM with Pizza at 12 PM. She discussed the opportunities on April 20. She explained the Recreation Department and DPW are doing the town-wide cleanup on April 20. She said the Commission had already agreed to combine forces for April 20. She said they then had the Friends of Franklin meeting on Monday and brought up Earth Month, and they had requested hosting some trail walks. She said she chose April 27. She said she has yet to send a follow-up email to Friends of Franklin. She referenced an accessibility working group that she started. She said the second meeting was today. She said she will be at the Beaver Pond event on April 20 at 9 AM; however, to accommodate those with disabilities, we are having a separate, but combined event at the Sculpture Park from 10 AM to 11 AM. She said where the Commission would like to be is up to you. She said she will be bouncing between the two places. She explained that at the Sculpture Park, there will be a walk or roll around the park and throwing out some native seed and some nature activity. She said the area does not need to be cleaned up as the grounds crew will already be making it nice. She said DelCorte is not on the list for cleanup. She said April 22 is Earth Day. She said the week before is school vacation. She said DelCorte is usually taken care of. She said there are options. She said she is seeking feedback from the Commission on Earth Day.

Discussion commenced on clean up at DelCorte in the past. Ms. Goodlander said she is getting her own operational budget as of July 1. She confirmed the Commission would like to combine forces with the other departments. She said that FFC would like to do their own walk which is on April 27, and the Commission can do this with them. She discussed other events. She said she hopes to work from home on April 8 for the solar eclipse. Discussion commenced on solar eclipses. Ms. Goodlander said the BEE Program is up to 100 registrants with a cap of 40 in-person residents and the rest for Zoom. She explained that this is exciting and fulfilling and noted some professionals who would be participating in the program.

Chair and Commission Comments: Master Plan Liaison Update

Ms. Goodlander said Ms. Meghann Hagen is still staying on the Master Plan and will still be our liaison. She said there was a public engagement at SNETT, but it was not well attended. The next public outreach is Saturday, March 23 for the Master Plan at large with every subcommittee. She said that Ms. Hagen is trying to schedule the next Open Space and Natural Resource, Cultural, and Heritage Subcommittee that she chairs to brainstorm ideas on how to engage residents; she noted some ideas.

Mr. Rein noted the audio-moth digital recorder at Schmidt's Farm. Ms. Goodlander said she received approval. She explained the Schmidt's Farm area. She said she is going out Saturday, April 6 to tag it to a tree and will remove it on April 10. She said she put out a news blast for it. She said she received an email from a resident and her son who asked if they could put it out; Ms. Goodlander said yes, they could.

Mr. Rein said that regarding appointments, they had a couple of extra applicants who were not chosen last time. He asked if they are in the running. Ms. Goodlander said she received about five-plus new applications. She said standard practice is to reach back to the ones on file and add the new ones in. She asked if the Commission would like to have everyone in at the next meeting for a Q&A. She said there are about eight with one open position. She said she is a firm believer in transparency, but if they would like her or the chair to take a first look, they can. She asked how long they want the vacancy open. Mr. Livingstone said he liked the idea of everyone going through the applications and rank them 1-5 and then pick three. Discussion commenced on how to review the applications and how long it should remain

open. It was agreed to put all the resumes in Google Drive; the Commission members will review by next Thursday. Discussion commenced on the makeup of the Commission and potential applicants.

Ms. Goodlander said vernal pools are starting to get active now; this is when it gets noisy. She said if they find anything outside, let her know.

Chair and Commission Comments: Natural Resource Protection Manager Update

None.

Executive Session: None.

There was a motion made by Jeffrey Milne to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Rein and accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0-0. Roll Call Vote: LePage-Yes; Livingstone-Yes; Milne-Yes; Rein-Yes; Trahan-Yes; Johnson-Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary