

**Town of Lenox
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 7th, 2023
Town Hall Land Use Room
7:30 PM**

Members Present: Neal Carpenter- chair, Vincent Ammendola, Mark Smith, Dave Lane, Rose Fitzgerald-Casey, Richard Ferren

Absent with Notification: Andrew Silver

Staff: Neena Martino

Others: Marc LeVasseur- Foresight Land Services, Bill Gop- Lenox DPW, Peggy Ammendola

NC called the meeting to order at 7:30

1. Notice of Intent- Housatonic Street Paving

ML explained the scope of the project. The whole portion of road from Housatonic to Crystal will be milled and repaved. DL asked for changes dimension wise, ML answered there are not changes to the current dimensions; the footprint remains the same. There are some areas of buffer zones. The road from East to Crystal street includes the addition of a cement concrete sidewalk. NC asked what the plans are for the first part of Housatonic to East, where there are sidewalks currently. BG answered it will be asphalt with curbing, as it is.

ML explained the various drawings. There will be a 2' shoulder from the road and a 6' sidewalk. Drainage will be in the cut area. NC asked if the side of the road is going to be smaller. BG said the lane width won't change, it will stay the same at 2 11' lanes. The sidewalk will narrow down in certain locations and will widen back to 6'. NC asked if all the culverts will be changed, BG answered it will from 383 Housatonic down to Crystal. NC asked if they are going to build a wall along the sidewalk at the culvert crossing, ML answered yes. NC asked if the sidewalks will be filled, BG said they will slope and add rocks where need be. BG pointed out they tried to keep it simple without putting a lot of walls in and they will use slope stabilization material.

DL asked if the big culvert would lower the water table. ML said they tried to match the bank width and they are going to put in a 5' wide one. BG thinks it will take a lot more but will likely still create some ponding. He mentioned the current drain beneath the road has collapsed and no longer works to drain water.

They will replace vegetation in areas where it is needed.

They explained where they will put detour signs during construction.

There will be some benches added in locations as rest stops.

DL asked about the stream that runs out to Crystal Street, and whether they have a plan to mitigate the washout that is already occurring and will be worse once the construction is complete. He asked if there

is any intent to stabilize the banks? There is not. They are proposing to add a new pipe to the head wall which will help a little bit. They discussed the trees in the area, ML said they will be planting around 50ish trees

NC asked for a monthly report from the project manager.

RFC asked if they'll be salting the new sidewalks, she was concerned the saltwater would run off and cause problems. BG explained that there won't be any more salt than is currently being used on the road now. From the road to sidewalk will basically be flush, so the wing plow will get most of the snow off the sidewalk as it drives down the road. He said if they don't need to salt, they wont.

NC said they need to set up some site visits. Board wondered if they really need a site visit, as the plans are very straightforward. They determined they don't need the site visit as the plans were detailed enough.

RFC sked when they plan to start, BG said its out for bid now. Construction will be starting in the spring.

NC requested a copy of the Right of Entry, if one ends up needing to be signed.

Motion by DL to accept project as proposed and presented, seconded by RF. All were in favor.

2. Approval of Minutes- November 16, 2023

No changes on the minutes.

Motion made to approve the minutes made by RF, seconded by MS. All were in favor.

3. Other Business:

85 Crystal enforcement order

The property owners performed work in violation of the Wetlands Protection Act by digging a road through a wet meadow. NCs last site visit showed the property owners began to repair the damages, but not well. The board filled out the WPA Form 9- Enforcement Order that will be delivered to the owners. The work is to be completed by early Spring by a competent equipment operator.

Motion made to issue the Enforcement Order by RFC, seconded by RF. All were in favor

Motion made to adjourn at 8:59 pm by RFC, seconded by VS. All were in favor.