



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
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RECEIVED  
AUG 30 2022  
TOWN OF TOWNSEND  
TOWN CLERK

Kevin Smith, Member  
Linda Mack, Member  
James Gates, Chair

Colby Streeter, Member  
Patricia Jemiolo, Member

Anne LeCuyer, Member  
Joan Savoy, Member

Conservation Commission  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
Friday August 5, 2022, at 6:00 PM  
MINUTES

VIA Zoom ONLY

PUBLIC ACCESS ZOOM MEETING LINK: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 881 7275 5355 Passcode: : 177463

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172755355?pwd=VnpmUDV4UUUpGUFZ0VVpQNVdDWUNMdz09>

All are invited to Attend – Materials and documents are available in electronic format upon request.

1 **PRELIMINARIES:** votes may be taken.

- 1.1 **Call the meeting to order and roll call.** JG calls the meeting to order at 6PM.  
Roll Call: JG (P) KS (P) LM (P) PJ (P) JS (P) CS (Absent) AL (Absent)
- 1.2 **Announce the Meeting is being tape recorded.** No one else is recording

2 **WORKSESSION:** votes may be taken.

- 2.1 **Emergency Project Certification -Brookline St schoolchildren pedestrian bridge – Pursuant to MGL 131 s. 40, and local bylaw 138-3, The Conservation Commission has received a request for an emergency project. – Emergency Projects are subject to 24 hour approval**

Jim Smith, with the Highway Department, is on the Zoom call to request an Emergency Project Certification in order to make repairs to the pedestrian bridge on Brookline St. Jim explains that during a MassDOT inspection of the vehicular bridge on Brookline St they noticed that the pedestrian bridge was in desperate need of repairs.

MassDOT recommended that the bridge be closed until temporary bracing is put up. Jim's plan is to put down 4 granite slabs in the riverbed and to brace the bridge with I-beams. Schools open up in 3 weeks and this bridge is frequently used by students, so it is imperative that work begin as quickly as possible. With the Emergency Project Certification Jim can begin work a lot faster than if he had to wait for the scheduled CC meeting. Jim also mentions that it is typical for MassDOT to provide funding/assistance to towns whenever Townsend is able to make permanent repairs to the bridge. This project would be a temporary fix so that the bridge is safe for when schools open back up. KS drove by the bridge earlier and he confirms that it is a very dangerous situation with how narrow the shoulders are. Jim also notes that there will be no digging in the streambed and that the work will be done by hand. LM is in favor of granting approval, but she would also like for Jim to come in front of the CC again when he has more formalized plans. JG informs the CC that the plan is for Jim to come back to the CC meeting on 8/10 with a longer term solution. JG also drove by the bridge earlier and reiterates that it is a dangerous situation, even noticing that a beam from the bridge had fallen into the streambed. KS mentions that MassDOT will most likely help the town with plans to repair the bridge permanently, and when those plans are finalized, they will file an NOI.

*LM motions to grant Emergency Project Certification, JS seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

**MGL c. 131, § 40, -**

The notice of intention required in the first paragraph of this section shall not apply to emergency projects necessary for the protection of the health or safety of the commonwealth which are to be performed or which are ordered to be performed by an agency of the commonwealth or a political subdivision thereof. An emergency project shall mean any project certified to be an emergency by the conservation commission of the city or town in which the project would be undertaken, or if none, by the mayor of said city or the selectmen of said town. If the conservation commission, mayor, or selectmen, as the case may be, fail to act favorably within twenty-four hours of receipt of a request for certification of an emergency project, said project may be so certified by the commissioner or his designee. In no case shall any removal, filling, dredging, or alteration authorized by such certification extend beyond the time necessary to abate the emergency. The permitting and emergency provisions in this paragraph shall not apply to severe weather emergencies as declared by the commissioner of environmental protection following a destructive weather event requiring widespread recovery efforts, debris cleanup or roadway or utility repair. A severe weather emergency declaration shall allow for emergency related work to occur as necessary for the protection of the health or safety of the residents of the commonwealth. A severe weather emergency declaration by the commissioner shall describe the types of work allowed without filing a notice of intent, any general mitigating measures to condition the work that may be required in performing such work, any notification or reporting requirements, the geographic area of the declaration's effect and the period of time the declaration shall be in effect which, in no event, shall be longer than 3 months unless extended by the commissioner. A severe weather emergency declared by the commissioner shall

be sent electronically to all conservation commissions in the geographic area of the severe weather emergency and shall be made widely available to the general public through appropriate channels for emergency communications. A declaration of a severe weather emergency by the commissioner shall not impact the department's ability to enforce any general or special law or rule or regulation that is not altered by the commissioner's declaration.

**3 ADJOURNMENT: votes may be taken.**

*JS motions to adjourn at 6:13PM, LM seconded  
The motion passes unanimously*

