



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840
575 Portsmouth Avenue • PO Box 100
Phone: 603.431.7111 • Fax: 603.430.3761
Website: greenland-nh.com

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Chip Hussey, Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Joe Fredericks

Members Absent: Kevin Lucey

Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:08 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Sea Level Committee Update: Peter Kinner

Peter Kinner, Town representative to the Sea Level Rise Commission, updated the Conservation Commission. The Commission was started in July 2013; the sun sets December 2016. The idea behind the Commission is to provide recommendations for State and municipal levels on how to prepare for projected sea level rise, storms, and increased stormwater runoff. There are 17 towns that were eligible to participate in the Commission; 37 members were appointed (Newmarket did not appoint a member). Conservation Commission members were given a fact sheet (copy on file). Additional information and meetings dates are available at <http://nhcrch.stormsmart.org>.

Member towns include:

- Coastal: Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, North Hampson, Hampton, Hampton Falls
- Great Bay: Greenland, Stratham, Exeter, Dover, Newfields, Madbury, Newington, Rollinsford, Durham; Newmarket did not participate
- State

In July 2014, the Sea Level Rise Commission divided into three workgroups: Coastal, Great Bay and State. Each group focused on the issues and/or recommendations that should be looked at from their perspective. The Commission also appointed a Science Advisory Panel to advise the Commission. Senator Waters and Senator Stiles attend meetings on a regular basis.

P. Kinner said projections from the Science Panel for our area included a 15-20% increase in rain volume. Projections for sea level rise range from 6 inches and 2 feet by 2050, including in the Great Bay. However, Greenland will be more protected from storm surges than the coastal towns. P. Kinner provided a list of regulatory and long-term planning considerations for Greenland (copy on file). Rockingham Planning Commission is doing a vulnerability assessment of seven coastal towns. It's being applied to maps in those towns to determine the vulnerability of structures years from now. Julie LaBranche has applied for a grant to do a vulnerability study in the Great Bay towns; this would be a great planning tool for Greenland. J. Fredericks mentioned changing the wetlands setbacks due to

climate considerations, keeping in mind where the Town would be vulnerable for flooding. P. Kinner responded that if funding becomes available, the information would be available to the Town.

There is a Coastal Adaptation Workshop (CAW) at the end of April to discuss the scientific advisory panels and parameters, and what that might mean. There may be other meetings where additional issues might be discussed and identified. More tools will become available. The Commission's final report won't be published until November 2016; a draft will be available November 2015. Outreach meetings will be held sometime between the spring of this year and November 2015. Recommendations will be made and feedback taken from the Towns. L. Byergo asked if funding will be available to towns to make the necessary changes. P. Kinner thought DOT may be planning, but wasn't sure about town roads. Towns will need to plan over the next few years to deal with the capital issues. The next Sea Rise Level Commission meeting will be Friday, February 20, 2015 at DES located on Pease.

2. Warrant Article Update

Chair Hussey reviewed the warrant articles.

- Article 14 - Amend the Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund to include the purchase of easements or options, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents: Chair Hussey would have preferred it was written as "approval" rather than "recommendation" of the Conservation Commission. The way it's written, the Conservation Commission could not recommend, but the Selectmen would make the final decision.
- Article 15 – Purchase of land (\$11,300)
- The Selectmen did not recommend the warrant article for \$5,000 from LUCT to be put into the Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund. Chair Hussey suggested that the Commission develop a warrant article to put the issue to the town next year. L. Byergo suggested there be a major campaign to make that happen;. Members were in agreement that the Conservation Commission needed a sizable amount of money available to outbid developers. Chair Hussey felt the tax payers should have the opportunity to vote on it.

B. Bilodeau asked if the Conservation Commission meetings would be televised if the warrant article for live streaming passed. Chair Hussey responded that it would depend on how the article was worded and how it would be amended at Town Meeting.

3. Trail Update

Chair Hussey did not meet with the Selectmen about the donation for clearing the trails due to weather on their meeting night. L. Byergo gave members a handout from the Appalachian Mountain Club regarding the trails. She has also talked to Rockingham County Conservation District about management and control of invasives.

L. Byergo suggested that they talk to the developer and use the brontosaurus where it would do the most good. Chair Hussey stated that the brontosaurus would do cutting throughout the entire project. He stated that he would need an answer from AMC where bridges would be needed over the bog and where steps would be located. He reminded members that because it's not conservation property, he would need to get permission from the Selectmen; an estimate and plan would be needed. L. Byergo noted that the AMC plan suggested one part of the trail could be an ADA accessible trail, but would cost quite a bit more money. Chair Hussey and J. Fredericks stated that part of the trail, along the dirt road, is already ADA accessible. J. Fredericks added that they needed the exact locations of the trails and

what construction they would be doing. Based on comments from members, L. Byergo will go back to AMC, telling them not a lot can be done with the plans as they exist now.

L. Byergo reminded members that they had planned to have a public meeting regarding the trails before Town Meeting. Chair Hussey would like to wait until more accurate information is available. At this time, it will be after Town Meeting.

L. Byergo reviewed with members the invasive management plan she received from Lenny Lord. The existing plan for this area states that there needs to be a management plan for the invasives. If a trail is going to be cut, the invasives will have to be taken care of, and it will cost the Town some money to spray, cut and spray. According to L. Lord, spraying must be done three consecutive years. L. Byergo suggested three years of spraying the trail area and then going in with volunteers to try to keep the area clear with cutting. Over the three year period, the cost for spraying the main trail area would be approximately \$5,000. L. Lord recommended using the brontosaurus on the autumn olive because it is so intense, but there would also need to be a plan to replant. RCCD could do a management plan on what to spray and when for approximately \$500, and could also conduct the spraying.

4. Voting Day: Tuesday, March 10, 2015

5. Town Meeting: Saturday, March 14, 2015 (9:00 a.m.)

6. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Approval of minutes was continued to the March meeting.

7. Other Business

- Chair Hussey recently talked to Trout Unlimited. If the Thompson Brook culvert doesn't get put in this year, approximately 50% of the funding will be lost. They have raised half the funding, and the State is only promising them traffic control. L. Byergo suggested that the Town approach the State about funding the culvert replacement. J. Fredericks suggested that the Conservation Commission write the State senators and representatives urging them to approach NHDOT.
- The pedestrian bridge on the Winnicut River was not presented as a warrant article to the Selectmen, which is part of the CIP. Chair Hussey felt he was blind-sided on this article not being submitted, and was unsure of the next step.
- Rockingham Planning Commission master plan information was given to members for review.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: J. Fredericks moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boars

Approved: April 08, 2015