



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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## MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Wednesday, July 08, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

*Members Present:* Chair Chip Hussey, Laura Byergo, Joe Fredericks, Kevin Lucey

*Members Absent:* Bill Bilodeau

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Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:03 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

### 1. Wetlands Permit: Hillside Drive and Meadow Lane Drainage Improvements

Phil MacDonald, Underwood Engineers, reviewed the Wetlands Permit for Hillside Drive and Meadow Lane. The Town paved the road and Bourassa Construction did some drainage improvements, dead ending a pipe off the end of Hillside Drive. Other structures that were tied into it drain into the old pipe, which is in the same general location but a little lower. The violation occurred because Bourassa disturbed the bank; the solution was to direct the drainage to a permanent location on Meadow Lane.

There are two pipes discharging drainage from Hillside/Meadow. The proposal is take both of the systems and discharge them to the easement, upgrading the embankment with a stabilized swale. They will be installing a couple hundred feet of pipe, connecting the drainage system from Hillside and bringing it over to Meadow. At the outlet on the headwall there will be a stone swale designed so the water will infiltrate down through the ground. It will be a closed stone-water collection system that will go into Pickering. P. MacDonald added they will be eliminating two pipes that discharge directly into the brook, and replacing with one that was more of an engineered solution.

They are going from two outlets to one outlet. The volume on the outlet will be doubled; the treatment area will be the stone swale in addition to the catch basins on the road. Currently, it's a direct discharge into the brook with both of the pipes. P. MacDonald explained that presently there is an old metal pipe that discharges directly into the brook. Bourassa put another system in, and it was plugged because there was no permit. It's hanging out of an embankment and will be removed. The old pipe on Hillside will not be removed.

The catch basins that feed the old pipe will be directed to the new system. The system is designed to handle 1" of rainfall. If there is a bigger storm, the riprap is designed to mitigate the erosion. J. Fredericks' concern was that the new outlet would be closer to the Bay than the two older outlets. P. MacDonald pointed out that the critical point was that the discharge was from surface water.

J. Fredericks asked if there would be any restoration where the old outlets were removed. P. MacDonald responded that it won't be a big impact area; the pipe will be cut and capped beyond the embankment. J. Fredericks clarified that the underground portion of the old pipe would remain; they

would just cut and cap the ends. P. MacDonald explained they were going to leave the old metal pipe that discharges from Hillside (none of the catch basins will be tied to it). The plastic pipe left by Bourassa Construction will be cut and capped; it shouldn't have much disturbance to the embankment. J. Fredericks further clarified that the old pipe from Meadow Lane would be abandoned and left in place; the ends will be plugged. P. MacDonald explained more damage would be done if it were removed. J. Fredericks was concerned that the area of the outfall would need to be restored. P. MacDonald felt the restoration would occur naturally because the source of the erosion would be eliminated.

Using the construction plans, P. MacDonald explained the process in detail. K. Lucey stated that many of the catch basins were full of sediment. It was unpaved for at least 12 months and there were no silt protectors on the catch basins; even the new catch basins were full. He continued that the owner of the corner lot had just added new top soil and grass. Chair Hussey suggested they wait until the work was done before cleaning out the catch basins. He added that maintenance was done by the Town as part of the environmental protection/stormwater management program.

J. Fredericks requested that the old outfalls be looked at to see if there was any restoration that could be done and to make sure they were up to standard. P. MacDonald stated that taking much of the water out of the pipe would help. J. Fredericks commented that if the work was going to be done, it needed to be done right. Chair Hussey suggested adding the construction page to the application.

Chair Hussey informed members that by signing the Wetland Permit they would be waiving their right to intervene per RSA 482-A:11, they believed the application and submitted plans accurately represented the proposed project, and they have no objection to permitting the proposed work.

**MOTION:** *J. Fredericks moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Wetlands Permit with the understanding that a letter is to include recommending the catch basins must be cleaned upon completion of the project. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

## 2. Update: Board of Selectmen Approval of Trails

Chair Hussey told members that the Board agreed to hire the Appalachian Mountain Club, but he hasn't heard from AMC. Construction on the trails will start on Wednesday, July 15; the rough-in will be done Tuesday, July 21. There is a contractor doing the construction; the work is being done as a donation. J. Fredericks stated they would need the monetary value of the donation when the work is complete to be used as a cost match.

When discussing no communication from AMC after repeated attempts, L. Byergo stated that she wasn't sure they wanted to work with another contractor. Chair Hussey responded they had no choice; if they didn't want to do the work, he could find someone who would. L. Byergo asked how they could help the contractor build a trail and not a road. Chair Hussey responded he has had groups offer to help with trail construction.

## 3. Update: Permitting of Trails

Chair Hussey stated that a trail permit will be needed, and he has spoken to DES. Once the location of the trail has been determined, they will look at it. Chair Hussey didn't think the bog bridges could be done by July 21; his goal was to get the trails roughed in. L. Byergo questioned the feasibility of receiving a trail permit as well as the location of the bog bridges and wetlands within the next week without the help of AMC. Chair Hussey reiterated he was willing to work with AMC, and was not going

to delay the trails another year. J. Fredericks added that AMC was a contractor; if they couldn't do the work, they would find another contractor that could.

L. Byergo questioned removing anything that was cut as the trails were being built. Chair Hussey felt it could be dragged out, dried and burned. The Town Planner recommended cuttings be left because it may not be physically possible to remove what had been cleared. L. Byergo also questioned how the base of the trail would be reinforced, or if the contractor had offered suggestions on what they would do with the different types of base they might encounter: wet, gravel, duff. Chair Hussey responded wood chips and gravel were available.

L. Byergo stated for the record that she felt they were pushing the date when there was not a good, solid plan. Chair Hussey countered that there was not a good, solid plan because AMC had not responded. Looking for markers would be the toughest part, but Chair Hussey felt the trails could move forward. Chair Hussey stated the contractor's deadline to have the work completed was Wednesday, July 15, 2015 due to other commitments. K. Lucey will produce the maps with coordinates of the corner posts included.

L. Byergo felt fall would be a good time to do the trails. Chair Hussey reminded her that because the work was being donated, it couldn't wait until fall. J. Fredericks added that if the work was being donated, it had to be done within the contractor's time frame or risk losing the donation. Chair Hussey reminded members that the Selectmen controlled the property. J. Fredericks stated they needed to take advantage of the donation, even it meant leaving out a small segment of what the Commission would like to see done.

L. Byergo stated that the Fields Pond Foundation would have welcomed a grant application. Chair Hussey reminded members that the handicap accessible aspect of the trails still needed to be done.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, June 10, 2015

**MOTION:** J. Fredericks moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, June 10, 2015. Second – K. Lucey; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

#### 5. Other Business

- Button Up New Hampshire will do a workshop for residents on how they can make their homes more energy efficient; the Conservation Commission would have to be the sponsor. Members felt it would be a good workshop in the fall. There is no cost; the Conservation Commission would do the publicity.

**MOTION:** J. Fredericks moved to authorize L. Byergo to contact Button Up New Hampshire about a workshop in September. Second – K. Lucey; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

- The Winnicut River Watershed Coalition is working on a management plan, which is a 319 grant from DES. L. Byergo is on the Selectmen's agenda for Monday, July 13. L. Byergo distributed copies of the packet for the Selectmen and asked that a member of the Conservation Commission be present at the meeting. She explained the two grants to members. A discussion followed about who was responsible for providing the matching money. J. Fredericks suggested when asking for assistance for the matching grants, she would need to state she was looking for match money for the Winnicut River Watershed Coalition and not asking the Town to provide part of the 40% match.

L. Byergo explained that WRWC was an initiative of the NH Rivers Council and is the legal entity on the grant.

After further discussion about the fiscal implications for the Town, J. Fredericks stated it might be premature to go before the Selectmen. K. Lucey suggested: they were looking for an endorsement of the application and there was no financial requirement at this time, but were trying to gather a cash match to support the application. J. Fredericks further suggested if they were looking at surrounding towns for donations, they should pro-rate based on population or land area. L. Byergo felt that would do a disservice to Greenland because the Town had the main stem of the Winnicut River.

Chair Hussey asked if a letter of support means commitment to the project. A letter of support was not a commitment and did not mean the grant had to be accepted. It had to be made clear to the Selectmen that a letter of support did not obligate the Town. There was further discussion about the best way to approach the Selectmen.

Chair Hussey will be present at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015.

- River Walk: The area will have to be hand built, and will go down to the Weeks trails.
- Rails to Trails: S. Gerrato represents the Town at the Rockingham Planning Commission. He told the Planning Board there will be a foot/bicycle path. There was a discussion about the Town's role.

#### 6. Adjournment

**MOTION:** J. Fredericks moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

#### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: August 12, 2015