



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

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

Members Absent: Joe Fredericks

Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:07 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Reorganization of the Board

Reorganization was continued to the next meeting when all members are present.

2. Shoreline Stabilization Wetlands Permit Application – 90 Depot Road

Tracy Tarr, Wetlands Scientist with GZA GeoEnvironmental and representing Lynn and Michael Marsh, addressed Commission members. T. Tarr reviewed the application, explaining that the Marsh's have had ongoing problems with erosion of their shoreline. Property loss has been noticed each year. In 2008 they received an original wetlands permit for riprap stabilization. Due to ongoing issues, an amendment was received from DES to continue the riprap.

The owners are proposing a hybrid, or bio-stabilization, technique for the area that slumps. It will incorporate willow whip plantings into the riprap; over time it will soften the shoreline. Eben Lewis, DES, has looked at the site and was in support of plain riprap. However, incorporating plantings is more wildlife and shoreline friendly. 1,944 sq. ft. of shoreline will be impacted, most of which is upland and bank. The plantings will offer natural buffer. No work will be done in the original riprap.

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to approve the Shoreline Stabilization Wetlands Permit Application for 90 Depot Road. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Annual Weeks Report

The report was done after the walk, but not written and submitted. Chair Hussey commented that it was the best the trail had looked.

4. Town Website

Chair Hussey explained that each Board, Commission, etc., will have their own page. Dave Luchsinger, 47 Park Avenue: Was in attendance at the Board of Selectmen when the new website was discussed. He explained that the Town is hiring a firm to do the website. All Town entities will be included.

L. Byergo suggested that the Natural Resources Inventory be included on the Conservation Commission page. She has volunteered to help with their page. She also mentioned that the Town of Greenland now has a Facebook page. Chair Hussey would like to see the water quality information on the website.

5. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, February 10, 2016

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Appointment – Ian Farley, Eversource: Tree Selection

Ian Farley was not in attendance; Rick Simpson, Rolling Green Nursery, was present. Chair Hussey pointed out the tree replacement was specifically for Town-owned property in Greenland, and not private property. The role of the Conservation Commission was to review and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Dave Luchsinger, 47 Park Avenue: The Board of Selectmen stated that there would be a written proposal from EverSource to replace the trees. He continued that he was present because he'd like to see specific plans for replanting, especially on the Town Green. He felt EverSource needed to be more accountable for the tree replacement. L. Byergo noted that EverSource, with the Urban Forestry Center, organized an event on Arbor Day that was held on the Green.

Rick Simpson, Rolling Green Nursery: Explained that the streetscape of the Town has changed. He saw the center section of Town, including the school and the Green, as an opportunity for renewal.

Debra Luchsinger, 47 Park Avenue: She was concerned about communication between EverSource and residents who lost trees. Many residents were unaware that Arbor Day was taking place on the Green. She continued that there should be checks and balances in place with what EverSource is saying and what they are doing. Is the Town the liaison? L. Byergo responded that it may be the beginning of an advocacy group, with a contact person, that could do some good work.

Debra Luchsinger, 47 Park Avenue: Suggested every Seacoast area town meet to review the problem with EverSource and tree removal. She was in agreement with the idea of an advocacy group, but was concerned how they would function if they weren't getting information.

R. Simpson suggested AJ, Urban Forestry Center, be brought in to consult with EverSource. He has worked with utilities and is a State employee.

Debra Luchsinger, 47 Park Avenue: Also suggested that Conservation Commissions in the area meet to discuss the tree issue. L. Byergo responded that there is a joint Conservation group that meets on a quarterly basis; however, this may be beyond their scope.

Chair Hussey stated that the Conservation Commission had a problem with EverSource not attending the meeting and felt they should stop cutting until further notice. Chair Hussey will be present at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, May 16, 2016, to discuss the tree replacement.

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to have the Conservation Commission meet with the Board of Selectmen about EverSource not attending the meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, and, further, that EverSource stop cutting trees in Town until further notice. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

There was a concern that the Board of Selectmen could not stop the tree cutting because it was not within their jurisdiction. Chair Hussey felt they could stop the cutting, based on the fact that EverSource is acting in bad faith. It was suggested that the PUC could also be contacted with any concerns.

7. Other Business

- Conservation Easements: L. Byergo reminded members that the Board of Selectmen requested a list of Conservation easements in Town as well as the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission for those easements. Chair Hussey stated that the Conservation Commission is responsible for the Weeks House and Falls Way. L. Byergo questioned the Hughes easement on Tide Mill Road, stating it needed to be mowed. Chair Hussey responded that many of the easements specify maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner.
- National Resource Steward's Network: L. Byergo stated it is similar to a listserv, and puts up announcements from throughout the State when people are looking for volunteers. She suggested using that network when looking for help with the trails, giving two weeks to one month notice.
- Coakley Landfill: B. Bilodeau updated members on the recent meeting.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

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| NEXT MEETING |
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Wednesday, June 08, 2016 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday 08.10.2016