



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 05, 2014 – 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 7:03 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 Review: Ray Konisky, Great Bay Oyster Restoration

Ray Konisky addressed Commission members, updating them on the status of the oyster restoration in progress. He was requesting an additional wetlands permit to expand the same location as previously done. Funding is incomplete; however, the permitting process may be changed by the Army Corps of Engineers to require a full engineering study.

The new area will be equivalent to 10 acres; the previous was also 10 acres. R. Konisky was at a Conservation meeting earlier in the year with oyster farmers permitting a two acre site. There will be a total of 22 acres that can be built out.

MOTION: *J. Fredericks moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the NHDES Wetlands Bureau permit application as presented for the oyster bed restoration encompassing 10 acres in Great Bay. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

2. Acceptance of Interest in Land – 135 Tuttle Lane: Comments

The Commission discussed the acceptance of interest in land and had no opinion.

MOTION: *J. Fredericks moved that the Conservation Commission had no opinion on the acceptance of 135 Tuttle Lane by the Town. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

3. Trail Update

L. Byergo updated members on the trail. At the July meeting, members discussed using Rockingham Planning Commission funding as matching funds; more clarification was requested. L. Byergo has spoken with Julie LaBranche, RPC, who anticipates there will not be a problem with the funds being available; RPC expected to receive the funding before the end of July. L. Byergo continued that she had hoped for an update before the meeting but hadn't heard from J. LaBranche. The majority of funds will be used for the larger scope of the trail, not just the smaller trail in Greenland. RPC will be doing the

mapping of easements, connecting routes, etc.; they will give the Town someone on the ground, in the field, to map the GPS.

L. Byergo suggested the Commission go to the Selectmen, explaining what RPC has to offer and request funding for a naturalist for the day and/or have the Appalachian Mountain Club come in for a day to map the trail. She continued it should be done at the end of September when the worst of the vegetation was beginning to die back. Chair Hussey stated that before they could go to the Selectmen, they would need “hard” numbers because it’s matching funds. He will also need to know what will be done in exchange. L. Byergo stated two additional people would be needed for the layout of the trails, and suggested a naturalist and/or wetlands scientist. If biological/habitat/environmental expertise is donated, would the Selectmen consider that part of their match? Chair Hussey will contact a retired wetlands scientist this week who may be interested; the Selectmen may agree to match the hourly rate. J. Fredericks added that RPC should take advantage of the opportunity to allocate funding to local communities and show residents the value that was being provided.

Chair Hussey summarized that RPC would need to provide a dollar figure for the work to be done on the Town trails; he will contact Peter Kinner to help with wetlands portion of the project. L. Byergo suggested several other groups that could be contacted to help.

4. Vernal Pools

A brief discussion took place reminding members that sizing and regulations needed to be established. Feedback will need to be given to the Planning Board. Chair Hussey stated that vernal pools are not part of the Ordinance, but rather their rules. DES is re-writing wetland ordinances, and they will include vernal pools. Chair Hussey will have the State of Maine criteria for vernal pools forwarded to members.

5. Density Bonuses: Conservation Subdivisions

Chair Hussey distributed copies of the possible approaches to conservation subdivision density bonuses prepared by J. Fredericks. Chair Hussey felt it would be a worthwhile project. He asked members to review prior to the September meeting.

6. Other Business

On July 21, 2014 RPC started a stream crossing assessment, looking at culverts in Town. Chair Hussey stated he was aware of one that had been done several years ago, however, no results were made available. L. Byergo requested more information on the RPC assessment.

Chair Hussey told members that the ZBA denied the Variance request for a truck repair facility at Travel America; he would like them to reconsider or table their decision. There has been minor stormwater management in the fueling area, and nothing throughout the remainder of the facility. It may give the Planning Board the opportunity to have the area cleaned up. J. Fredericks added it would have allowed a portion of Greenland to be moved from septic to sewer; that is big from a conservation standpoint. Chair Hussey stated that in his opinion it was better to redevelop a developed property than take open space and deal with septic. He continued that the water quality leaving the site needed to be improved; it currently goes to a storm drain and out a culvert to the road. He wanted the ZBA to reconsider tabling their decision until additional information was available.

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to send a letter to the Zoning Board of Adjustment requesting they reconsider their vote to deny, and move to table, the request for a truck repair facility, giving the applicant ample time to provide a better plan. Second – J. Fredericks; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Hussey did not have an update on the two parcels the Conservation Commission needed to complete the wildlife corridor. He felt they needed to move forward on the first parcel, and will make an appointment to meet with the Selectmen.

The Commission was updated on the trails at Cushman Way. Chair Hussey has spoken to the developer and was assured it would be marked appropriately.

Chair Hussey told members that he was notified as required by the Wetlands Permit, that work has started on the Van Etten Drive development. There is a trail head in place; there will be a walking trail around the front of the property as well as the start of a trail to connect with what is done on Town property. A parking lot will be built on the existing road.

There was a brief discussion regarding 560 Breakfast Hill Road. L. Byergo suggested a conservation easement be put on the portion of the property at the head of Berry Brook before it's sold; J. Fredericks suggested it could be subdivided out.

L. Byergo had the water testing results for 2012 and 2013 available for members to review. Although the numbers weren't terrible, they didn't meet the desired standards.

J. Fredericks stated that one of the good things that the Town has done for conservation was the development of permeable asphalt at Target and Lowe's. He has noticed over the last few months that repairs are being done to the permeable asphalt. Electrical work has been done in the parking lot; permeable asphalt has been removed and patched with impermeable. Chair Hussey will ask the Building Inspector to check the repair work and contact Packard Development.

7. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, July 09, 2014

MOTION: J. Fredericks moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, July 09, 2014. Second – B. Biloldeau; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

8. Adjournment

MOTION: L. Byergo moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Second – J. Fredericks; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted – Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: September 10, 2014