



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Chip Hussey

Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Review: 75 Tuttle Lane [R9, 1A] - Residential

Owners/Applicants: Bob and Barb Dion

The owners/applicants are requesting a Conditional Use Permit through the Planning Board to build a three bedroom residence which includes septic, a connection to City water and utilities. They will be filling in within the jurisdictional wetland buffer.

Bob and Barb Dion, owners and applicants, addressed the Board. Mr. Dion pointed out the wetland setbacks, noting the location of the proposed house. Septic approval has been received. Proposed grading, with fill locations, were pointed out on the plan. Mr. Dion addressed Article 18.6.2 for a Conditional Use Permit as well as provided a revised plan.

While reviewing Article 18.6.2 – Conditions, they realized there may be a better way and revised the original plan from the Civil Engineer (copy on file). C. Hussey noted the slope had been reduced. Mr. Dion added that they reduced the floor height in the garage. They also plan to build a retaining wall (he pointed out the area that would not be impacted); the impact on the other side would be limited to a small area. He pointed out the wetland setback line and noted that with a retaining wall they could hold that up and make it smaller, leaving the grades as they are now.

On the other side, they regraded and don't have to go as high. Is it best to have a gentle slope so the rain runs off slowly or doesn't run off and sinks in, or have a steeper slope that would impact the setbacks less? Unsure of which way to go, they proposed a gentle slope.

Chair Byergo asked if it increased the amount of disturbed land because it was extended a little further out in order to make the gentle slope. C. Hussey commented he thought it was the same. Mr. Dion stated they could make the slope steeper and impact less land. Chair Byergo stated that generally less steep is better. C. Hussey explained that the setbacks are for non-point source pollution; the biggest problem in the residential area is the chemicals put on lawns. A slower slope would be better. Mr. Dion stated they were proposing to replant hardy, fast growing native non-invasive vegetation.

There is a small, old abandoned foundation on the property. There was a discussion about the septic system. The septic system will be outside of the 75' setback. Mr. Dion noted that it was a tight lot, and they've been working on the project for three years trying to get everything to fit. The septic system

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was redesigned because the original permit expired. The newer system is narrower and longer. Their septic designer told them the longer systems worked better and recommended the 45' design. The narrower, longer system will allow them to stay away from the roots of the larger trees they wanted to keep.

Chair Byergo asked about a stormwater management plan, noting that one is required for areas over 3,000 sq. ft. of disturbed area. Mr. Dion responded they have less than 3,000 sq. ft. C. Hussey suggested a sock with wood chips would work the best. Chair Byergo stated there should be something in place not only during construction but after that would direct the rainwater into a rain garden or something similar so it's absorbed before it goes into the wetlands. C. Hussey noted it's not required in Greenland.

C. Hussey questioned the mean high water on the property and if test pits had been done. Two test pits have been done. Mr. Dion felt the high water mark was 97.5', and noted the location on the plan. The basement is 2' above the mean high water mark.

The retaining wall was briefly discussed. Chair Byergo noted that there will be wetlands on both sides of the house. Because of the wetlands on the property there was no other location for the house. Mrs. Dion added that it was described as "marginal wetlands". However, the vegetation indicates it's "wet"; most of the year it's not wet.

Sarah Rowe, 31 Vernita Drive: Agreed with the Dion's on the wettest area of the property and that the other side is "like a field".

The Conservation Commission considered the owner's revised plan received on May 10, 2017. C. Hussey stated for the record that it was an improvement. Mr. Dion added that the revised plan means less elevation for the driveway by 1' and the slope decreases from 7% to 5.7%. Less slope means less fill; however, some fill will be needed (Mr. Dion pointed out the area on the plan). Chair Byergo added they had the right idea in terms of the land on either side, keeping it vegetated, and trying to reduce the runoff especially from the driveway.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to agree with the changes the applicant presented to the Conservation Commission on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. They will need to review with the Planner for any formal items needed (example: engineer's stamp) before moving forward. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

<p>2. Review: 21 Strongs Landing [R13, 13] – Residential Owners: Stuart Bauder Living Revocable Trust, Debra Miesfeldt Living Revocable Trust NHDES Minimum Impact Wetland Permit Application: 105 sq. ft. of temporary construction impacts within the previously developed 100' tidal buffer zone for burial of new underground utility lines servicing the existing residential structure.</p>

Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering and representing the owners, addressed the Conservation Commission. The mast on the house connects the overhead wire from the house to the utility pole (pointed out on the plan). The mast is leaning over and ready to fall off the house. A portion is within the 100' tidal buffer zone. S. Riker contacted DES and submitted a written request to the head of the Wetlands Bureau; he received emergency authorization to repair the problem. It was necessary to dig a trench and bury the lines rather than having overhead wires.

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The plan shows the trench where the lines will be buried. The area is mainly asphalt driveway; there will be no disturbance of natural vegetation. S. Riker pointed out the edge of tidal wetland and the existing structure. It's within the shoreland zone, and a permit for that will also be submitted.

The application will be submitted to NHDES as minimum impact. Due to the repair being an emergency, it will not have to be expedited; the work has been done. The review period will be the standard 75 days. DES will be looking for comments from the Conservation Commission. The application has been filed with the Town Clerk.

The Conservation Commission had no comments; the job had to be done. Chair Byergo read portions of the application into the record (copy on file).

MOTION: C. Hussey moved that the Conservation Commission had no comment; the job had to be done. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

3. Recruitment of New Members

Sarah Rowe, 31 Vernita Drive: Attended the meeting in response to an “ad” on Facebook seeking volunteers for the Conservation Commission. S. Rowe has not been involved in any type of conservation work for approximately 15 years. She was in the inaugural class of an Environmental Science Program in Maryland, doing a lot of impact studies and wetlands as well as impact studies for development, etc. For her homeowners association she did an entire watershed evaluation. She described other areas where she volunteered. S. Rowe added that both she and her husband enjoy the green space in Town. Chair Byergo responded that they were looking for people who would be interested in joining the Conservation Commission. C. Hussey added that she would have to complete an application and meet with the Board of Selectmen to be appointed.

4. Approval of Revised Informational Page for Town Website

Chair Byergo wrote an information page for the Town Website and asked members for input. B. Bilodeau stated that he originally joined the Conservation Commission because he wanted to see something done with the Winnicut River, and has been a member for six years; nothing has been done. He added that a great job has been done on Rolston Park. Chair Byergo suggested adding that to the June agenda; a new management plan for the Winnicut River is being discussed.

The management plan will not pertain to the fish ladder: that is a Fish and Game issue. The management plan is a 319 Grant to review all available data on water quality and identifying hot spots or areas of runoff. A second 319 Grant is applied for to get the money to do the recommended best practices. The Commission could add the fish ladder to the agenda for further discussion. Fish and Game could also attend a meeting and update the Commission. C. Hussey stated he has received complaints from citizens about putting the dam back.

Chair Byergo stated that DES has released their revised list of impaired waters. They look at the waters throughout the State. Part of the Winnicut River has been de-listed as impaired; the impairment for PH has been removed. Listed for a number of issues, it included low dissolved oxygen in that impoundment. That will not be good for any support to continue the impoundment. After further discussion about the fish ladder, Chair Byergo will contact Cherie Paterson.

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5. Assisting with Revisions to Greenland's Master Plan

Rockingham Planning Commission has a grant for all towns; C. Hussey stated that the Town has applied for the grant to revise a chapter in the Master Plan. Chair Byergo stated that the grant is specific to the recommendations on sea level rise as a result of the Coastal Hazards Commissions. They were providing a small grant to towns (Greenland has applied to RPC) to help implement the recommendations as a result of the Coastal Hazards work. The Town Administrator has submitted a request for a grant to add a chapter to the Master Plan regarding sea level rise. Chair Byergo asked the Town Administrator to include the Conservation Commission as one of the bodies involved in that chapter.

6. Update: Planning Board and ZBA Actions on Wetland Permits

Chair Byergo updated members on recent wetland permits that were reviewed by the Conservation Commission. (1) Dock at 22 Brackett's Point – Planning Board: It was clarified at the Planning Board meeting that the parking lot was not open to the public. The dock was approved by the Planning Board with no changes. (2) 57 McShane Avenue – ZBA: It was very complicated. Approval was granted retroactively for the two foundations that were poured, contingent on the buildings above being approved by the Building Inspector. The shed and greenhouse were not allowed. The pier was not discussed; DES required the home owner to remove the dock.

7. Trail Update

C. Hussey stated that Troy Thibodeau will meet with the surveyor to review the plans. T. Thibodeau and C. Hussey will look at boundaries and meet with the home owner whose property was encroached. Additional excavating work is planned. Chair Byergo stated there should be a better process to decide what needed to be done with the trail once the property lines were clarified. A path with a crown needed to be done so water would go off the path rather than a dug hole where the water collects. C. Hussey added that the Town has equipment to remedy that problem. The grader used on the fields could be used on the trails. Getting through the invasive species was a main concern.

It was clarified that C. Hussey was waiting for T. Thibodeau to show him the boundaries. Then they could continue the trails. There was a discussion regarding the surveyor and boundary markers. Chair Byergo would like to be included when the trails are marked.

The trails will be a continual agenda item until resolved.

8. Recruitment of New Members (continued)

B. Bilodeau suggested adding the need for members to the directional sign at the end of Town Square. Chair Byergo felt Rick Mauer was considering joining the Conservation Commission. There are seven seats and two alternates available. It was clarified that there is not a Selectmen's Rep to the Conservation Commission; C. Hussey is considered an appointed member of the Conservation Commission until his term expires next year, but cannot be Chairman. Volunteers are welcome for specific projects.

9. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, April 12, 2017

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, April 12, 2107. Second – C. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

10. Other Business

Chair Byergo was contacted by the troop leader for the Greenland Brownies. They would like to do a project with the Conservation Commission. There are approximately 14 members, 7 to 8 years old, earning a "Take Action" badge. They need to do a project that will have lasting impact. Their suggestion was the Weeks Trails; Chair Byergo gave the troop leader that contact information. She also told her the Conservation Commission would consider them as projects were developed.

The Board of Selectmen are asking all Boards, Commissions, and Committees their opinion about live streaming meetings. C. Hussey reviewed the two proposals with members. One option was to go through Comcast, which would mean losing the Portsmouth channel. The cost would be \$12,000 to \$16,000 in revenue to the Town. The second option would be live streaming through You Tube. Equipment costs would be \$400 to \$500 per camera, and \$15 per year. S. Rowe explained how You Tube live streaming would be accessed. Informally, the Conservation Commission didn't care if their meetings were live streamed; they preferred You Tube.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Second – C. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: