



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
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**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

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

*Members Absent:*

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Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:00 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

**MOTION:** *J. Fredericks moved to appoint C. Hussey as Chairman. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

**MOTION:** *B. Bilodeau moved to appoint J. Fredericks as Vice Chairman. Second – K. Lucey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

2. Southeast Watershed Alliance Representative

Chair Hussey told members that the Board of Selectmen asked the Conservation Commission to appoint a representative. There is a quarterly meeting involving stormwater discharge permits and MS-4 reports. The Conservation Commission felt they should be able to act on behalf of the Town, and will request authority from the Selectmen; the representative will report directly to the Selectmen.

**MOTION:** *L. Byergo moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Conservation Commission member representing the Town at the Southeast Watershed Alliance meetings to act within specific parameters (i.e. can't make financial decisions or commit to change). Second – J. Fredericks; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

3. News Release: Trails

4. Trail Update

A more in-depth news release about the trails was discussed. Adding information about the Greenland Greenways and trails throughout Town connecting neighborhoods was suggested: Van Etten, Coastal and Cushman is the proposed trail system; negotiations are in the process for access to Winnicut Road. The Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting during their regularly scheduled meeting. Chair Hussey will send a report to the Selectmen that will include construction and maintenance costs as well as a maintenance plan. L. Byergo pointed out that feedback received at the public meeting would allow the Conservation Commission to make a more informed presentation to the Selectmen. B. Bilodeau

suggested a brochure or flyer about the trails be distributed at the Transfer Station; any feedback could be directed to the Town Hall.

Members agreed there was a conceptual design for the trail system but not necessarily a plan or funding. There is a contractor who is willing to do the digging ,and funding will be needed to do the bog bridges. It was suggested using some of the Town gravel to help reduce costs. There was discussion about requesting Town gravel and use of the Town truck and other equipment. The Appalachian Mountain Club will lay out the final trail location; J. Fredericks stated that the developer had the heavy equipment. Chair Hussey added that a full size excavator to mini-excavator would be available.

J. Fredericks felt that they were not ready for a public meeting on the trail system. He added that if there was going to be a meeting, there needed to be maps showing the location of the trails and the impact to abutters. He suggested a one page narrative about the trails and a map or graphic that shows the approximate location of where the trails would run, and it needed to be simple for the layperson to understand.

K. Lucey told members there was a new online map service published through DES. The Coastal Viewer has many different data layers. K. Lucey suggested that AMC provide the Conservation Commission with the shape and line files of the GPS line that was written. K. Lucey can then set it in a map that will show the topography plus wetlands. J. Fredericks stated that for the lay person it could not have too many layers, but would need to have streets, streams and proposed trails. K. Lucey added that the important thing was the parcel layer that was protected.

K. Lucey stated that they have a design plan from the Appalachian Mountain Club but not the full package. He suggested that putting things together in a single document that would create the plan to move forward. L. Byergo voiced her frustration at the lack of communication and decision-making among members. All aspects of the plan, including what was expected from AMC, the developer and Town, needed to be established before making a presentation to the Selectmen. She added it would be useful to have some public response. She also agreed that at some point, the abutters should receive very specific graphics.

Feedback on the ADA issue from the public would be helpful. J. Fredericks asked L. Byergo why they would ask the public if the trails should be ADA compliant. She responded that she looked at the rules, and asked AMC and the State Parks. They responded that they have been waiting for rules to come down, but nothing is available yet. There is some anticipation in the future there will be a requirement. She added that it was going to cost a lot more money to make the trails ADA accessible. J. Fredericks added that because federal money was not being used, they wouldn't have to comply with federal regulations. He continued that they needed a legal opinion on making the trails ADA accessible. Although it would be nice to make them ADA accessible, they have a responsibility to be fiscally responsible. The Chair will ask the Board Secretary to contact the Town Attorney.

L. Byergo stated a grant request would need to be done to build the trails. Chair Hussey felt that the developer could do the majority of the work; the bog bridges and materials to do the reinforcement would need to be funded. He felt he could get granite from the State; J. Fredericks suggested he ask the developer of 1533 Greenland Road for any granite that may be on that site.

It was anticipated that design work, manpower from AMC and invasives control may be the most expensive parts of the project. The developer will supply much of the equipment and labor needed. They were hoping gravel would come from the Town, and that much of the materials would be available on site. If the costs could be reduced substantially, a grant would not be necessary. K. Lucey disagreed.

The construction method in the AMC proposal was using hand tools on the trail surface; they recommended not using heavy equipment. The labor cost from AMC was substantial, as was the cost of the bog bridges. Chair Hussey stated that \$40,000 would not be available through the Town; K. Lucey suggested that there were grants available. He continued that they received the proposal from experts in trail design and building, and they recommended not using equipment. At the last meeting, Chris (AMC) stated there were areas of the trail (beginning and end) where heavy machinery could be used. L. Byergo suggested that the developer and AMC meet to discuss how they would work together to build the trail.

There was a discussion about what to present to the Selectmen and the public, and when it should be done. L. Byergo suggested that she should do the presentation to the Selectmen; Chair Hussey stated that it was suggested a written report be done. L. Byergo will do the written report. There was also a discussion as to how the public would be notified about the meeting. Grants were discussed.

J. Fredericks stated that it was unreasonable for them to go to the public with any less documentation than what is required by the Town for building projects. The ZBA and Planning Board require detailed plans and documentation, and felt the Town should be held to the same standard. L. Byergo responded that they wouldn't be ready with that information until further into the project. She added by that time it may a little more difficult to make adjustments based on public feedback. J. Fredericks suggested L. Byergo she anticipate the questions that would be asked and have answers; he will send her an email with basic questions and answers.

Flyers and notices will be done by L. Byergo for distribution at the Transfer Station, Town Hall and Post Office. A press release will also be sent to the Portsmouth Herald.

**MOTION:** L. Byergo moved to hold a public meeting regarding the proposed trails at the Conservation Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. In addition, printing costs for brochures, flyers, etc. used to notify the public be taken from the Conservation Commission budget in an amount not to exceed \$150. There was no second; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Conservation Commission has requested to be added to the Board of Selectmen agenda for the meeting on Monday, June 15, 2015. K. Lucey felt the May meeting was too early and the Conservation Commission was not ready for a formal presentation. He suggested that documentation be prepared and reviewed before going public. J. Fredericks suggested a work session be scheduled on Thursday, April 30 to review documents. To be reviewed at the work session: a narrative, a proposed flyer, a map, line drawings, a chapeau, the AMC layer to K. Lucey, and materials needed. J. Fredericks will email L. Byergo anticipated questions and answers.

5. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 and Wednesday, March 11, 2015

**MOTION:** J. Fredericks moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, February 11, 2015, as amended. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** k. Lucey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Second – J. Fredericks; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Other Business

The age restricted housing project at Bramber Valley appearing before the Conservation Commission was discussed. J. Fredericks suggested that the septic work and impact on wetlands be done before they come to the Conservation Commission. They will be asked to attend the June meeting.

L. Byergo will attend the Spring for the Bay meeting on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

7. Adjournment

**MOTION:** *J. Fredericks moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

NEXT MEETINGS
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Thursday, April 29, 2015 – 6:00 p.m., Work Session, Town Hall Conference Room

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 – 7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, May 13, 2015