



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

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Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

*Members Present:* Laura Byergo, Rich Collins, Joe Fedora, Chip Hussey, Joe Russell

*Members Absent:* Bill Bilodeau, Sarah Rowe

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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. 19 Birch Point – Wetlands Permit Application

Paige Libbey, Jones and Beach Engineers, addressed the Commission regarding the Wetlands Permit Application for 19 Birch Point submitted to NHDES. Also present was Tom Porat, homeowner. The parcel is a single family residence on .5 acres on Great Bay. Almost the entire parcel is located within the 100' buffer (Town's tidal buffer and DES upland tidal buffer). A portion of the house was originally constructed as a camp. T. Porat is planning to demolish the original portion, renovate the remaining side and build an addition. They are also proposing to stabilize an area of the slope along Great Bay that is eroding. The project reduces the overall impervious area on the site and provides a larger buffer to Great Bay from the house. The impervious area will be reduced with the removal of some patio area and the footprint will be smaller. They are not proposing any fill in the wetlands; a DES permit is needed because of the upland tidal buffer.

C. Hussey suggested plantings to soften the impact of waves. P. Libbey stated the slope was vegetated at one time. T. Porat clarified that C. Hussey was recommending a rock wall with plantings to absorb the energy of the waves. Chair Byergo added that riprap diverts the energy area. P. Libbey stated they have met with Eben Lewis, DES, on site in December 2018. The plan was designed based on his recommendation. The erosion and slope of the land may necessitate minor tree removal.

Chair Byergo asked if they had considered turning the house. T. Porat responded that they intentionally pulled it away from the edge of the water, but made no drastic changes. P. Libbey noted they would be at the Planning Board meeting for a Conditional Use Permit next week.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit from the Town of Greenland for this project. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: C. Hussey moved that the Chairman be authorized to sign the application. Second – J. Russell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### 2. Update: Van Etten Open Space Donation

Barry Posternak, Van Etten Drive, and Chair Byergo have met regarding his proposal; they have agreed on a joint plan. They agreed to purchase the trees from Rolling Green. C. Hussey questioned the change in vendors, noting the proposal stated a vendor. Chair Byergo responded that she preferred the quality, diversity of trees and pricing at Rolling Green; B. Posternak was fine with that selection. Rolling Green will also be doing the plantings. Chair Byergo distributed a proposed budget. The projected cost of the project will be \$1,400; B. Posternak originally offered a \$5,000 donation.

Following Matt Tarr's guidance, UNH, Chair Byergo reviewed the plantings, which will probably be done in the fall. There will be two shadbushes, a crab apple tree, and the largest one will be planted close to an ash. The chances that the ash will not survive are very high because of the emerald ash borer. A linden tree may also be added and would be a nice companion to the oak tree. All of these species grow well in compacted gravel, not great dirt. A tulip tree may also be added.

B. Posternak was concerned about the amount of loam. He felt 3" of loam would be better for the large area to give the wildflowers the best environment. Chair Byergo had some concerns about the loam; M. Tarr had stated the better environment given to the wildflowers the more weeds. Chair Byergo recommended it not be made to look like a flower bed.

R. Collins asked why the Town's cost of \$3,700 was not included in the donation, since the projected donation costs were considerably less than the \$5,000 offered. Chair Byergo explained that the donation was not offered to cover the Town's projected cost, only the wildflower planting. The Town will be mowing the entire area twice (approximately \$600) and re-grading the slope (high estimate of \$2,000). C. Hussey asked if the \$1,400 donation included the planting labor. Chair Byergo noted that planting, compost and delivery was \$535, and included in the \$1,400.

C. Hussey questioned the re-grading of the slope. He noted that the warrant article was reduced to \$10,000 and there were two trees that needed to be dropped on Cushman Way. He continued that Chair Byergo was concerned about the trees because she approached the Town to remove the trees. C. Hussey stated the Town doesn't have the money to do trail work when the Conservation Commission has been given money to do trail work. Chair Byergo responded that one tree is dead, the other is not. She has spoken to the Building Inspector and the Town Administrator about her conundrum: the two trees may be on the Town's right-of-way, which is not Town land. C. Hussey noted they are on the Town right-of-way and it is Town land. The Town is liable if there is damage caused by a falling tree. Chair Byergo stated if it was Town land, the private property problem disappeared and there was money to do it. The tentative cost is \$1,000 to \$2,000 per tree; she will try to get a better estimate. C. Hussey stated two quotes would be needed. Chair Byergo noted the projected trail costs to date would be \$6,000; the warrant article was \$10,000 over three years. She added the big expenses of the bridge and boardwalk were done; the rest would be smaller trail work. She felt there was room in the Conservation budget. C. Hussey suggested waiting on the grading until August or September.

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the distributed budget as submitted as a maximum amount. Second – J. Russell; four in favor, one opposed (C. Hussey). MOTION CARRIED

### 3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### 4. Reorganization of the Board

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to appoint Bill Bilodeau as Vice Chairman. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor.  
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to appoint Laura Byergo as Chairman. Second – J. Russell; all in favor.  
MOTION CARRIED

### 5. Other Business

C. Hussey and B. Bilodeau are planning to walk the Winnicut River to see what needs to be done to cut a canoe path. Chair Byergo commented that would be great and she would be happy to have a report. She added that R. Collins may also be interested because of his interest in Great Bay Trout.

*C. Hussey left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.*

### 6. Update: 2019 Seedling Event

There were some seedlings left over this year. Chair Byergo was able to give most of them away to Town residents, with the exception of the red cedars and red pines, which were given to a conservation group in Effingham; some of the seedlings died. Feedback: it was a good thing to do but should cut back based on numbers from the previous years. A sign on the way into the dump was suggested; more publicity would help. Carolyn Collier, Pickering Brook Drive, suggested there be fewer choices. Also, the plant information wiped off immediately in water. J. Fedora described other aspects that would be helpful another time.

### 7. Update: Bridge and Boardwalk on Thompson Brook Trail

Chair Byergo reported that the bridge and boardwalk are done and the Commission could move on to other things. Signage remains to be done; an Eagle Scout expressed interest in doing the small bog bridges. She has seen the schematics, but not the design. There was a discussion about the bog bridges. The design, fund raising and getting volunteers is the responsibility of the Eagle Scout; Chair Byergo will bring the design to the Commission when it is available.

### 8. Update: Trail Maintenance and Trail Committee

Larry Day is interested in managing the Trail Committee. He has a prior commitment on Wednesday nights and has been unable to attend a Conservation Commission meeting.

### 9. Approval of Receipts

MOTION: J. Russell moved to approve payment of the lumber for the bridge and boardwalk in the amount of \$629.58; reimbursement to L. Byergo for the seedlings in the amount of \$210; and reimbursement to J. Fedora for two oak planks in the amount of \$66.68. Second – R. Collins; all in favor.  
MOTION CARRIED

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### 10. Easement Monitoring, Intern

Chair Byergo stated there were four applications to be considered for the summer intern. She was unsure if one intern was interested. Two applications were received from Hampton, and one was recommended by Matt Tarr. She said she would be interviewing the applicants based on the Conservation Commission's recommendations and would welcome other members to join her in selecting a final candidate. J. Fedora volunteered to join her.

*Chair Byergo turned off the recording to discuss intern applications.*

### 11. Review: Wetland Permits

Wetland permits for Spruce Lane and Depot Road were approved by DES prior to the meeting. Spruce Lane and Depot Road were briefly discussed. J. Fedora questioned the use of fertilizer on the slope at Depot Road.

### 12. Approval of Meetings

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, March 13, 2019, as amended: Chris Collins will be corrected to Rich Collins. Second – R. Collins; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: J. Russell moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 08, 2019. Second – R. Collins; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

### 13. Other Business

The water keeper has offered to take members on a two hour boat ride in September. Chair Byergo explained that the water keeper is a Conservation Law Foundation position. They look for violations as well as advocate for the Piscataqua River and the Little Bay/Great Bay system. The boat ride will be a great opportunity to see and learn about the Bay. It was suggested that Dennis Malloy, NH State Representative and Greenland resident, also join the Commission on the boat ride. Members expressed an interest in September. Weekday evenings were suggested.

NHDOT will be replacing a culvert on Portsmouth Avenue. She asked R. Collins for a review of the culvert replacement.

On Saturday, June 15, 2019, J. Fedora and Chair Byergo will be putting up the last trail sign at the top of Liberty Hill Lane where the trail turns. J. Fedora put reflectors on the tide pole at the end of Tide Mill Road; he's hoping to see the tide maker in poor visibility conditions.

### 14. Adjournment

**MOTION:** J. Fedora moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Second – R. Collins; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant

Approved: