

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2018, 7:00 PM

Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Members present at the meeting included: Jim Owers (Vice-Chair), Tracey Boisvert, Rick Chormann, Kathy Healy. Assistant City Planner Beth Fenstermacher and Administrative Specialist Lisa Fellows-Weaver were also present. Alternate Jan McClure, and Chris Kane arrived later in the meeting.

1. Minutes

November 14, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Owers, seconded by Ms. Boisvert, to approve the November 14, 2018 minutes, as written. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public hearing to discuss conveying an easement to Five Rivers Conservation Trust on the Martin and Lassonde properties and the appropriation of funds for stewardship fees.

The Public hearing was opened at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Owers provided an overview of the area. He stated that the Conservation Commission is proposing to amend the easement for the three Freese properties and add the Lassonde and Martin properties, which were recently acquired by the City. He stated that the proposal is to convey the easements for Lassonde and Martin to Five Rivers Conservation Trust, and Five Rivers would be stewards of the five properties, in perpetuity. Five Rivers is requesting \$6,000 from the Commission as a one-time stewardship fee. There is an additional \$2,500 in operating costs so the total amount is \$8,500.

There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Ms. McClure, to approve \$8,500 for costs associated with the conveyance of the easements for the Lassonde and Martin properties to Five Rivers Trust and to move forward to present to City Council the recommendation to grant the easement and appropriate the funds at their January meeting with a public hearing scheduled for February. The motion passed unanimously.

3. NHDES Items – none

4. Reports

a. Trails Subcommittee

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that members from AARP gave a presentation at the subcommittee meeting. AARP will be sponsoring wayfinding and educational signs for the Riley and Bachelder Mills trails. Ms. Fenstermacher noted that the wayfinding signs will be the standard trail signs, but the education signs will include AARP logo.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the intern will be returning for a few weeks over the winter break and will be working on various trail projects with Ron Klemarczyk.

Ms. Fenstermacher noted that the subcommittee is still looking for trail monitors for Contoocook River Park and Rolfe Park trails.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the mountain bike trail at Broken Ground will be completed in the spring.

A brief discussion was held regarding the signage for the Rossview Farm connecting trails.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Trails Subcommittee Annual Report is forth coming.

Ms. Fenstermacher provided a map of the existing trail system with a 400 ft buffer around each trail shown, which has been identified by NH Fish and Game as the zone of influence on wildlife. The map was overlaid on the Wildlife Action Plan layers and the new Fish and Game layer that shows important

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wildlife areas to protect. It was suggested that the trails committee also discuss this item. Members felt that this is a good goal for a future project. Ms. McClure will follow up with a coworker at the Nature Conservancy to see if he would be willing to look at a study area in the City to determine if certain trails should be closed or relocated, or if certain areas should be avoided altogether.

Connecting undeveloped areas with the surrounding towns was also discussed. Mr. Owers indicated that that he is working with Rob Knight on connections through the Walkers Reserve State Forest and that there will be a meeting scheduled sometime in January with Scott Rolfe of the NH Division of Forest and Lands.

Chris Kane arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she had a meeting with Jane Presby of the Dimond Hill Farm. Ms. Presby expressed several concerns with the trail such as camping, bike traffic after sunset, drug trafficking, to name a few. Ms. Presby suggested that the verbiage stating “no camping” be added to all of the trail signs. She expressed safety concerns with people trespassing; it is private property, and being on the property at night.

As a follow up from last month’s meeting, Ms. McClure stated that she followed up on the issue regarding potential trail racing on the Winant Trails. She stated that a race has been scheduled as a fund raiser for the Emerson School and it is scheduled for the second Saturday in May, 2019. The Emerson School will be applying for all necessary permits. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested that the City have a course map on file as well as information including the date, time, and an approximate amount of people that will be participating. It was asked if any trail maintenance is done or should be done by the entity prior to the race. There was also a discussion about how the entity would pay for any trail damage. Ms. McClure will again follow up with the race organizers.

b. Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee

Nothing new to report.

c. Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee

Nothing new to report.

d. Forestry

Ms. Fenstermacher circulated the Forester’s Report. She mentioned that Mr. Klemarczyk is proposing a timber sale at Bachelder Mill or Swope Park for FY2020, and that he would like feedback on which the Commission would like to see move forward for next year. The Commission requested that Mr. Klemarczyk attend the next meeting to review and discuss future cuttings for 2020 as well as the forest management plan.

e. Concord Tree Committee

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Concord Tree Committee’s first meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 21. This meeting is an introduction meeting with the purpose to establish goals for the year.

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5. City Open Space

a. Cloutier Easement, Hoit Road – Forest Management Plan

Ms. Fenstermacher provided an overview of the easement property. She stated that an Intent to Cut for the property was submitted and has been denied by the Assessor's office because there is no Forest Management Plan on file, per the easement. The Forester submitted a forest management plan for review and approval by the Commission, noting the locations of the proposed cuts and the tree species mostly consisting of white pine and hemlock; 50% of the over story is proposed for removal. The Commission requested that the forest management plan be provided to Mr. Klemarczyk for his review and suggestions.

6. City Council/Planning Board

a. Flood Ordinance

Ms. Fenstermacher explained that the Community Development Department is proposing to amend the flood ordinance to eliminate reference to the Army Corps of Engineers Floodway maps and only use the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance maps and the supporting data. She stated that this will only apply to the Merrimack River.

A discussion was held regarding the fact that the FEMA map is not as restrictive as the Army Corp of Engineers. Ms. Fenstermacher explained that the data from the Army Corp is 40-50 years old and the data is unusable. It was suggested that a contour be created using LiDAR and the base flood elevation data to see if it is comparable with the most recent FEMA map.

b. Solar Ordinance

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Planning Board is having a workshop at their December 19 meeting to discuss the solar ordinance proposals.

7. Follow-up/On-going Items:

a. Update Bylaws – Continued to the January 9, 2019 meeting

b. Country Hill Estates

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the purchase and sales agreement is being drawn up and she is expecting to receive materials from Peter Holden this week. A public hearing will be scheduled for January.

Projected costs were discussed. Jim Owers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chormann, to approve the expenditure of \$18,500, which includes the purchase and title search. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Easement enforcement policy discussion - continued to future meeting

d. Conservation Easement Standard Templates - continued to future meeting

8. Other Business

a. FY20 Budget

The Commission requested to review and finalize the 2020 budget at the January meeting and to have an outline of the funds and purpose for all accounts.

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b. Commission Reappointments

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the following members' appointments were expiring: Chris Kane, Kathy Healy, Rick Chormann, and Jan McClure. All members agreed to remain on the Commission for another term.

9. Non-public session for the discussion of the acquisition of conservation property in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(d)

Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Mr. Kane, to enter into a non-public session, per RSA 91-A:3,II(d). By a roll call vote, the motion passed by a unanimous vote at 9:01 p.m.

Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Ms. Healy, to come out of non-public session at 9:11 p.m. With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chormann made a motion, second by Ms. Boisvert, to seal the minutes of the non-public session, per RSA 91-A:5, IV. With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Healy made a motion, second by Ms. Boisvert, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist