

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
AUGUST 8, 2018, 7:00 PM
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Members present at the meeting included: Jim Owers (Vice Chair), Councilor Mark Coen, Chris Kane, Kathy Healy, Tracey Boisvert, Rick Chormann, Jeff Lewis, and Jan McClure (alternate). Assistant City Planner Beth Fenstermacher and Administrative Specialist Lisa Fellows-Weaver were also present.

1. Minutes

July 11, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Chormann, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the July 11, 2018 minutes, as amended, with edits that do not alter the content of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. NHDES items

a. Dan DiPiro, 92 Runnells Road, requesting a Permit by Notification for the construction of a 6'x20' floating seasonal dock and 5'x6' ramp.

Ms. Fenstermacher distributed the Permit by Notification (PBN) application for review. She explained that this is for the construction of a 6'x20' floating seasonal dock and 5'x6' ramp. A Conditional Use Permit and variance were previously granted for a home being built within the flood zone and within the Shoreland protection zone at this location. The ramp will be a permanent structure; however, the dock is removable and is why a PBN application is required.

The Commission had no comments.

b. Unitil

Ms. Fenstermacher explained that Unitil is conducting an integrated vegetation management program within the transmission lines at Garvins Falls. A copy of the NHDES Maintenance Notification was provided which included updated Natural Heritage Bureau findings on rare and endangered species within the Garvins Falls location. Mr. Kane will review the document to compare with the findings from the Open Space Master Plan Update.

3. Reports

a. Trails Subcommittee

Trails Criteria Review

The trails criteria review was continued to the next meeting.

Ms. Tardiff had previously provided proposed appointments for the Trails Subcommittee. Ms. Fenstermacher explained that the member's terms were based on the recommendations from Rob Knight, which was based on attendance at the Trails Subcommittee meetings. All of the proposed appointments are current members with the more active member's terms rotating across three years. The initial 3-year appointment will actually be 2 ½ years in order to have the terms expire in January 2020.

Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Mr. Lewis, to approve the Trails Subcommittee appointment list as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional discussion was held regarding the Conservation Commission member liaison to the trails subcommittee as noted in the trails subcommittee structure. Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Mr. Lewis, to amend the trails subcommittee structure to state that one member of the Conservation Commission is an appointed member to the Trail Committee and would be a non-voting member. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lewis volunteered to be appointed to the Trails Subcommittee as the Conservation Commission liaison. Mr. Kane made a motion, second by Ms. Boisvert, to nominate Mr. Lewis to the Trails

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Subcommittee as the Conservation Commission liaison, with a term to be consistent with his Conservation Commission term. The motion passed; 6/0/1. Mr. Lewis abstained.

Leave No Trace Partnership

Ms. Fenstermacher provided the costs and benefits for the Leave No Trace partnership. She supported the \$300 membership and felt it would be sufficient for the Commission.

Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Ms. Boisvert, to support the partnership with Leave No Trace, at \$300 per year. The motion passed unanimously.

Central NH Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA)

The MoU for NEMBA will be voted on at the September meeting.

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 stated that the intern has done an amazing job and is working her last week. She stated that Ms. Nault has been conducting surveys at various trail heads. A summary will be available for the next meeting. She stated that she would like to have these surveys done again in the future. Ms. Fenstermacher also reported that there is no Forestry Report this month because Ron Klemarczyk is in Colorado fighting forest fires.

e. Street Trees

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she has received a request from General Services for plantings to replace the existing pines at the Veterans Memorial Park at Blodgett Road and Loudon Road. She stated that there is \$2,500 available in the budget. It was explained that there is a veteran's grant program available through Home Depot that she will look into.

Councilor Coen made a motion, second by Mr. Owers, to approve \$2,500 for tree replacement at the Veterans Memorial Park at Blodgett Road and Loudon Road, with the request that the Commission be able to comment on what species is planted. The motion passes unanimously.

4. City Open Space

a. Hunting on City Property

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that a request was submitted to Council last year regarding banning hunting on all Conservation and Parks land. At that time the Commission sent a response with the recommendation to provide more education and outreach to the hiking and hunting community. Another letter was recently received by Councilor Champlin relative to banning hunting. The City Manager wants to push the Conservation Commission to do additional outreach and education, as was recommended in their response in November 2017. It was suggested that Ms. Fenstermacher contact Leave No Trace to see if they have information available and if there are any links from the Department of Fish and Game that can be added to the City's website and Facebook pages.

b. Easement Monitoring

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the interns have completed the easement monitoring for all 51 easements.

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5. City Council/Planning Board

Solar Ordinance Update

Ms. Fenstermacher updated the Commission on the Energy and Environment Committee's progress on the solar ordinance. Senior Planner Sam Durfee is looking into what areas would be the best location for solar and Ms. Fenstermacher is planning to contact other communities to see how they have implemented solar. Discussion ensued. The plan is to review the proposed draft with Councilor Werner at the September meeting.

Municipal Property Energy Initiatives Ad-Hoc Committee

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Municipal Property Energy Initiatives Ad-Hoc Committee is moving forward with proposing a solar installation at the landfill. Tighe & Bond were at the Ad-Hoc Committee's last meeting to discuss energy projects in other municipalities that they were involved with. She stated that she and City Engineer David Cedarholm plan to contact solar developers to do a presentation for the August 20 meeting.

6. Follow-up/On-going Items

a. Chesley Property Update

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the deed has been sent to Joan and George Chesley for their signature. Mrs. Chesley has inquired if there will be any compensation received from the Commission to cover transaction costs. After discussion, Councilor Coen made a motion, second by Mr. Owers, to reimburse the property owners \$855.64 for all necessary transaction costs for the land donation. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Lassonde Land Swap - Update

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the application for the boundary line adjustment was approved by the Planning Board on Wednesday, July 18. The deeds are now being prepared.

c. Hardy Property

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Hardy property purchase and sales agreement has been signed and the proposal will be presented to City Council at the August meeting.

d. Martin Property

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Martin property purchase and sales agreement was delivered today the proposal will be presented to City Council at the August meeting.

e. Country Hill Estates

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Dan Geiger will be beginning the wetlands evaluation for the ARM grant. She explained the scoring of the grant which is based on the watershed scores. She added that the Town of Hopkinton will also benefit from this project.

f. Property Transaction Costs

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Tim Britain provided a quote for handling the closings for the Hardy, Lassonde, and Martin properties of up to \$1,500 per closing. She noted that the money was appropriated in the budget this year. A motion was made by Mr. Owers, second by Mr. Kane, to approve up to \$4,500 for the closing of the Hardy, Lassonde, and Martin properties, which also includes any preparation involved for settlement statements and the preparation and recording of all documents. The motion passed unanimously.

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g. Easement Enforcement Policy Discussion – continued to future meeting

h. Conservation Easement Standard Template – continued to future meeting.

9. Other Business

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that a complaint was received for the blocking of the snow mobile trail of the Carter Hill Subdivision. The easement deed references no motorized vehicles are allowed on the easement. Since this is private property it is up to the owner.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she has received a request for camping on a City trail. The item was discussed and it was noted that camping is occasionally allowed; however, only for non-profit organizations such as The Boy Scouts of America, when supervisors will be present; individual camping on City trails is not permitted.

There being no further business, Ms. Boisvert made a motion, Mr. Kane second, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist