



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Conservation Commission MEETING MINUTES of November 16, 2016 8:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chair), Michael Gelcius, Mark Vernon, Ruth White, Tim Paradis, Dan Allen, Michael Kennedy and Maggie Ford.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Alexander (excused), Andrew Deegan (excused), Shawn Costello

STAFF PRESENT: Lucy St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator)

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Kessler (Pellettieri Associates), Gerry Gold, David Cook

Call to Order: Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Roll Call: Chair Brown called the roll. The voting members are: Chair Brown, Dan Allen, Mark Vernon, Michael Gelcius, Tim Paradis, Ruth White and Michael Kennedy.

Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Vernon) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to approve the revised minutes of October 19, 2016 as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Easements and Land Acquisitions

Gerry Gold came to discuss the warrant article for the Pleasant Street land acquisition (Lot 073-083-000 & 074-047-000). He is interested in learning more about it. He asked if they were willing to sell two lots of the land to get back some of the purchase price. There are other conservation lands to acquire. He would like to see the land appraised. The town would benefit from the sales. He offered his assistance in writing the warrant article.

Chair said there were never any plans or intentions to sell the land. Pointing out the neighboring land's worth was used to point out that this land was worthy of acquiring. The conservation commission's charter is not a land development body. However, it can be discussed in the future.

Low Plain Project

Chair gave an update to the commission about last night's Planning Board meeting. It has become a very popular site. The Forestry Plan was revised to include the wildlife management (the stewardship portion) in more detail that talks about the wildlife habitat and management go together. All permits have been submitted along with the intent to cut. The types of trees being cut have been selected, along with some patch cuts. There will be a public awareness program that will include presentations, publications and meeting. There will be site tours before, during and afterwards. Once all approvals have been received signs will be posted.

Mr. Vernon asked to include post harvesting monitoring, to help measure what the outcomes. And to monitor invasive species.

David Cook came to ask for the approval for the tree cutting. Ten to twelve trees have been identified. Clean up will have to be done without equipment. He will be talking with Ausbon Sargent today.

Chair said he would like to have a joint visit. An intent to cut might not be necessary for this amount of tree cutting. Once the meeting is over, we'll go down to the Selectman's office to talk with Ms. Rankins.

Mr. Cook also proposes getting a new name for the hill. He doesn't feel that "Cook Trail" captures the historic aspect. The hill was used by sheep in the 1800s for spring water. He proposes naming it "Sheep Juniper Hill."

Ms. Ford excused herself at 9:30am.

Wetlands/Shoreland Applications

- **Hall, Deborah & Arthur Shoreland Permit Application. Located at 333 Bunker Road. Tax Map 062-020-000.** Project description: The projects seeks to create a more uniform walking path, within an existing lawn, to provide informal wheelchair access to an existing dock. Also proposed, is temporary construction access necessary for improvements to an existing beach (Refer to the Wetland application submitted simultaneously for more information). All disturbances will be restored to their pre-application condition. Pre-construction impervious 20.6% and proposed post-construction impervious 20.6%. Plan prepared by Pellettieri Associates. Conceptual plan discussed at the Sept. 27, 2016 Planning Board meeting. Town received Nov 3, 2016.
- **Hall, Deborah & Arthur Wetland Expedited Permit Application. Located at 333 Bunker Road. Tax Map 062-020-000.** Project description: The project seeks to reconstruct an existing beach (approval # 1992-00288), dug into the bank, with a more favorable perched beach. The existing beach elevation is partially below the 803.8' reference line of Pleasant Lake, resulting in sand erosion/migration into the water body. The project seeks to raise the beach approximately 1'8" above the high water mark, significantly reducing erosion potential, and providing safe access for users. Plan prepared by Pellettieri Associates. Conceptual plan discussed at the Sept. 27, 2016 Planning Board meeting. Town received Nov 3, 2016

Ms. St. John updated the board on this application.

Chris Kessler gave the presentation. It will be a temporary disturbance that will be restored.

- ✓ Easier/level walking path for wheelchair accessibility
- ✓ The surface area will be lawn
- ✓ The final grade will be a 10% slope with variations at certain areas
- ✓ Second assess proposed to get to existing beach
- ✓ Silt fence will be around the disturbed area and the panel leading to the beach
- ✓ Any material needed will be free of any invasive weeds or seeds, usually mixed with a compost that has been heated and tested/
- ✓ It is a legal beach
- ✓ The elevation line is below the reference line per Pleasant Lake
- ✓ No additional sand, instead raise it up above the reference line 1'8"
- ✓ There will be additional and replacement of steps leading to the water replacing unstable boulders
- ✓ Two boulders, a filter fabric layer and crushed stone will be used to keep sand in place
- ✓ The surface of the beach will be either flat or pitch slightly away from the lake

Questions & concerns discussed

- ✓ What is the surface treatment?
- ✓ What is the grade area and what will be the final grade?
- ✓ Any concerns about erosion
- ✓ Is the contractor sensitive to not importing invasive species?

- ✓ Where will the new beach be located in comparison with the highest normal water?
- ✓ What makes up the area on the pond side of the beach to keep the sand out?

Ms. St. John gave an over view of this application from the Planning Board. They will provide a letter to DES about the provisions of the zoning ordinance on page 64, which do not allow expansion of beaches, although they are in support of this. The key issue pertains to jurisdiction; Town or State. There have been no comments or concerns from anyone.

Chair asked if there were any more comments or concerns. There were none.

Motion

IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Michael Gelcius) to approve the expedited application. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion

IT WAS MOVED (Tim Paradis) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) for staff to write and send an email of support to DES. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Planning & Zoning Administrator's Report – Lucy St. John

Ms. St. John gave an update of the Planning Board and applications received.

- ✓ DES is requesting more information for the Wright Shoreland application at 72 Checkerberry Lane. They will be coming before the board to present their application and for a tree cutting application on December 13.
- ✓ The Royce Shoreland application at 1590 Little Sunapee was approved.
- ✓ Adamian Shoreland Impact Permit at 412 Forest Acres Road was approved with conditions.
- ✓ Soo-Nipi Hollow Farm Commercial Farm Site Plan was approved with conditions.

The Planning Board is in the process of discussing accessory dwelling units and signs. A busy agenda for the December 13 meeting is expected to be full; subdivision, commercial farm, solar applications and zoning issues. Also, possible changes to the zoning ordinance.

Ms. White asked about the tree cutting located at 1845 King Hill Road. Ms. St. John explained that the Town does not have jurisdiction over timber cuttings and whoever is doing the logging has to do standard forestry practices.

Chair asked about the wetland forestry notification.

Chair asked Ms. St. John and Ms. White to speak about the multi town meeting with the LSPA.

Each spoke about their experience and the key issues that were discussed. Then the board talked more about those issues.

Trail, Maps and Projects

- *Hospital Trail* – Mr. Vernon gave an update. The new name for the trail is Hospital Community Trail. A work day is this Saturday morning the 19th. Volunteers are still needed. The Newport road entrance is undecided. One concern is the agreement with Eversource, specifically says the trail will only cross under the wires between certain poles, therefore, relocating the entrance will be adding a crossing under the lines. The board discussed possible relocations.
- *Clark Lookout* – Chair gave an update to the trail work being done. Trail resurfacing and storm water management work has been started. Additional gravel will be added in the spring as needed. A new entrance and gate will be completed in the spring utilizing the carriage road across from Park & Ride.
- *Clark Pond* – Mr. Allen gave an update of the work completed and the worked needing to be done.

- The Footpaths trail maps will need to be updated and ordered.

Other Business

- ✓ The desirable land list updating is in progress and ongoing.
- ✓ Certificates for the Chainsaw Training were given to all those who participated.
- ✓ Trail patches for hiking all NLCC trails were presented to Michael & Robin Kennedy.
- ✓ Mr. Vernon spoke about the annual meeting of NH Association of Conservation Commissioners on last Saturday.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 8:30am.

Motion to Adjourn

**IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Ruth White) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Richtmyer,
Recording Secretary
Town of New London