

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
February 27, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeremy Degler, Kevin Dodds, Doug Bryar, Scott Orzechowski, Jeremy Rhodes, Dale Smith-Kenyon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Collins

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley, Planning Technician
Michelle Mears, Director of Planning and Community Development

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 6:00 pm.

1. **LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MASTER PLAN CHAPTER WORKSHOP WITH STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Autumn Scott, Planner at SRPC, presented the plan and its current state to the Commission, noting that the timelines included are rough; we are currently in phases one and two, which are foundational steps.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled for the next Conservation Commission Meeting (3/13) and joint meeting with the Planning Board (3/20). Core work is to assemble data from other groups and develop a land use chapter for the City's master plan, with an aim to complete the chapter in late spring to early summer. Work can take place outside of workshop sessions as well; 'homework is acceptable'.

Major sources include the Natural Resources Assessment and GRANIT maps, but others will be used, including DOT mapping.

Topics discussed:

- Tree Cover/Urban Heat Islands: Particular interests in lack of green space in downtown and in lower-income areas of the City. Tree planting efforts, policy-driven efforts to encourage preservation and creation of green space in heavily developed areas, and planting guidance are recommended.
- Energy Consumption and Renewable Power Generation: Efforts towards energy efficiency discussed. Solar ordinance for small-scale power generation discussed, as well as large scale projects such as the landfill site were raised. Possibility of hydropower with the presence of the Salmon Falls River in the City.
- Site Plan Regulations: Substantial progress made in the past few years; future work could be around encouraging compact development in both single and multiunit development.
- Open Space Planning: Conservation spaces and other open spaces; guidance on planning of these would be appreciated.
- Water Quality: There are several significant bodies of water in the City (Willand Pond, Lily Pond, Salmon Falls River, etc.); protection from pollution and misuse.
- Green Infrastructure: Wildlife corridors, culvert management, flood control, habitat management and diversity.
- Historic Resources – information is available, but is older and an update could be useful.

Conservation Commission Minutes
2/27/2024 Workshop

- Additional Maps/Land Views:
 - High Yield Stratified Drift (Aquifers)
 - Water – areas of concern/pollution sources
 - Flood Plains
 - Exempt Areas
 - Superfund Site/Pollution Sources – ‘Impaired Land’
 - Habitat Types
 - Watersheds
 - Wellhead Protection
 - Unfragmented Land
 - Heat Islands/Tree Cover
 - Development Constraints
 - Brownfields
- Transportation: Input from the Planning Board would be helpful here

Next Steps:

- Pull together notes
- Expand available maps
- Gather data
- Develop materials for upcoming workshops (3/13, 3/20 to follow)
- Additional community outreach
- Goal and Vision to follow workshops

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary