

MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING - SOMERSWORTH, NH    Wednesday October 12, 2011  
Council Chambers - City Hall    Meeting Called to Order at 1900

Attending: Scott Gessis, Frank Richardson, Al Bryant, Imants Millers, Dale Smith-Kenyon, and City Planner Dave Sharples.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Imants Millers moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2011. Scott Gessis seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimously.
2. Old Business: Scott Gessis asked if the city received \$60,000 in fines to be paid by the Davis family. Dave Sharples replied "no". \$60,750 is anticipated but the Davis family has up to 60 days to pay the fine which has not yet expired. If they do not pay by this time, the attorney will order a contempt charge by the end of the month. Fines are assessed at \$275 per day as each day the offense is not corrected.
3. New Business:
  - A) Label Tech: Label Tech, Inc. is seeking a conditional use permit to construct a new building with associated site improvements within the buffer for property located at 24 Interstate Drive. Geoff Aleva, from Civil Consultants, updated the Commission about the status of the improvements made at the Label Tech site. They are looking for an alteration of terrain permit and are awaiting a response from the state. The DES installed riprap behind the existing building, stumps were removed, and sand fill and loam were applied. Frank Richardson asked where the stumps were moved to. Currently they are off the edge of pavement, away from the building. Al Bryant asked about erosion controls. Label Tech will need conditional use permit to meet the new setback regulations. Conservation Commission recommended approval of the plan by the planning board with the condition that the DES permit be in place before issuing the building permit.
  - B) Mast Point Dam Reuse Discussion: The Commission will have 2 maps to work with in making suggestions and developing a concept plan for the reuse of Mast Point Dam. Suggestions were made to consult with Fish and Game in developing a trail network, Trout Unlimited about restocking the river for recreational fishing, and other resources to aid in a development plan. Al Bryant asked if lands would be under water during a flood. David Sharples answered "no", as the elevation is 190 feet and the flood waters went up to 183 feet. Once the initial plans are done, the plans can be used as a presentation for grants. Other discussions included whether DPW can assist with clearing and posting of signs and if Eagle Scouts could utilize this development as a project. The Commission also discussed trail options, amenities needed, family activities, maintenance plan, and future costs of the site. Al Bryant suggested the Commission consider spending some commission money for the building of bridges and possibly other necessary structures. Imants Millers suggested that the paths be wide enough for an ATV in case of emergency. Frank Richardson asked if there was an obligation to make the trail system accessible based on ADA regulations. David Sharples was not sure. Al Bryant thought the Commission should involve members from other groups. Imants Millers suggested that history should be tied into this reuse project. David Sharples suggested that the Commission

have an agenda before any workshop is planned. Frank Richardson suggested ideas for marking the trail and a way to tie this project in with other conservation land.

C) Update on Citizens for a Sustainable Somersworth: Liz Wilson was not present. Dave Sharples updated the Commission on the activities from the last meeting. Citizens for Sustainable Somersworth has developed a Backyard Chicken Ordinance and are forwarding it on to the planning board for review and comment. The group has also talked about community gardens and are working on identifying sites.

D) Member Items and Reports: None.

E) The City Planners Report: As discussed previously in the meeting.

F) Any Other New Business That May Come Before the Commission: Scott Gessis reiterated his intent to remain on the Commission as long as he can contribute and Frank Richardson verbalized acknowledgement of Scott as a valuable member despite of limits posed by health concerns.

4. Workshop Business: None.

Scott Gessis made a motion to adjourn. Imants Millers seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2004.

Respectfully submitted, Dale Smith-Kenyon (Commission Member)