

MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

April 13, 2011 Council Chambers – City Hall

7:00 PM

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

1. Minutes of previous meeting. Scott Gessis noted that there was a typo in the minutes of the previous meeting (an “s” was inadvertently placed on the end of Muriel Ring’s last name). Scott Gessis made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting as amended. Imants Millers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Old Business
 - A. Review and discuss Goal 4.1 of the 2010 City of Somersworth Master Plan regarding preparing an open space plan that prioritizes parcels for acquisition and preservation, assesses the most appropriate uses for City-owned parcels, and explores greenway linkage opportunities between these parcels. Postponed until the next meeting. This old business is linked to New Business item 3.A, which is also postponed until the May meeting due to technical difficulties.
 - B. Any old business that may come before the Commission. Frank Richardson and Imants Millers attended the most recent Friends of Willand Pond meeting and heard from the DES on invasive species in Willand Pond. They received a Weed Watchers kit from DES, which includes a book on how to identify invasive species/exotic plants, how to collect plant specimens, and a printed milfoil management plan. Frank Richardson noted that the group learned more about the proposed herbicide treatment, and the mitigation measure seems like it is a relatively safe. Liz Wilson asked about Weed Watcher training. Frank Richardson responded that no formal training date was established; however, the DES plans to conduct a walk of the pond. Frank asked the DES if the Commission can accompany the DES on their walk, and the DES responded that the Commission is welcome to accompany them. DES will inform Frank Richardson when they plan to conduct the walk. Imants Millers suggested that the Commission consider using some of its funds to support ongoing mitigation efforts following the initial herbicide treatment. Imants Millers also suggested that someone on the Commission be the formal Commission contact for the Weed Watchers program. Frank Richardson said that more will be known about the program after the initial treatment for milfoil takes place.
3. New Business
 - A. Presentation by the City Planner regarding GIS capabilities of the City. Postponed until the May 2011 meeting due to technical difficulties.
 - B. Update on the Somersworth Sustainability Committee. Liz Wilson summarized the first meeting of the Somersworth Sustainability Meeting held on March 17, 2011. Mayor Soldati nominated Liz Wilson and Jennifer Soldati as chair and secretary of the Committee, respectively. Liz Wilson stated that the first meeting was an organizational one, and meeting structure/procedures, a mission statement, and the next meeting were discussed. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

- C. Member items and reports. 1) Scott Gessis indicated that his contact phone number listed in the directory is his cell phone number and not his home phone number. 2) Imants Millers indicated that he will attend the next Friends of Willand Pond meeting, which will include a discussion of the trail system around the pond and the intent of the Friends group to work with a landscape architect to reconstruct the trail system. Imants Millers asked if such work would require permitting. Dave Sharples responded that permitting will be dependent on what plans the landscape architecture firm submit to the City for review.
- D. City Planner's report. 1) Water withdrawal at Willand Pond has ceased, and Dover is pursuing a permit to begin water withdrawal again in an effort to keep water levels down. 2) There is a pending 319 grant that the City is exploring to support the installation of a BMP at the stormwater outfall by the Monster Gas station. This outfall was identified in the SW Cole report as appropriate for retrofit. The BMP would function to remove phosphorus from stormwater. 3) The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Project (PREP) has \$8,300 of funding to help a community develop a Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance. This grant will be presented to the Planning Board for their approval at their next meeting . Dave Sharples suggested that the Commission stay up to date on the LID ordinance process.
- E. Any other new business. None.
4. Workshop business. None.
5. Adjournment. Dale Smith-Kenyon moved to adjourn. Imants Millers seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, ElizabethWilson (interim Secretary)