

## MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

August 10, 2011 Council Chambers – City Hall

7:00 PM

Attending: Frank Richardson, Al Bryant, Imants Millers, Liz Wilson, City Planner Dave Sharples

1. Minutes of previous meeting. Al Bryant made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2011 meeting. Liz Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

- A. Any old business that may come before the Commission. Al Bryant brought up the Breton Cleaners site and said that Councilor Messier recently spoke with him and expressed interest in the status of that property. Al explained to Councilor Messier that there are potential risks that the City would take on by purchasing and remediating the property. Dave Sharples added that at the time of the Commission's previous discussion of the Breton Cleaners site, funding was not available to cover building demolition, only remediation. The law is currently changing and will likely allow building demolition to be included in grant funding. Dave Sharples mentioned the additional concern that the property has environmental liens associated with it, but that DES has mentioned that they may be able to take care of those liens. Long term monitoring by the City would also be a concern to the City, and DES may be able to assist in this as well. The Breton Cleaners issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

3. New Business

- A. Label Tech, Inc. seeks a conditional use permit to construct a new building with associated site improvements within the buffer for property located at 24 Interstate Drive, in the Industrial (I) District, Assessor's Map 58, Lot 6H, CUP #01-2011. Geoffrey Aleva of Civil Consultants represented the property owner. The owner, Label Tech, recently conducted some earthwork within the buffer zone without a conditional use permit and is therefore applying for a permit after the fact. Earthwork was reportedly done in April, and the City Code Enforcement Officer informed the land owner that a permit was required and that stabilization should be conducted and maintained until a permit was issued. In addition to the proposed construction of a new building and associated pavement on the property, proposed work includes restoring the slope and buffer that was previously disturbed. A portion of the proposed drainage pipe and other stormwater management structures are located within the buffer. Mr. Aleva stated that these structures will be constructed such that erosion will not occur. Frank Richardson stated that a site walk should be conducted by the Commission. A site walk was scheduled for Saturday August 20, 2011 at 8:00am. Dave Sharples asked Mr. Aleva to have the disturbed area flagged for the site walk. Frank Richardson requested that the proposed riprap apron also be flagged.
- B. Discussion of Mast Point Dam. Dave Sharples mentioned the City's interest in opening access to Mast Point Dam back up to the public. The purpose would be to utilize the parcel and the adjacent conservation land for recreational and educational activities and to discourage misuse of the property. The City feels that clearing some of the underbrush on both the dam and conservation parcels would improve the use of the space. The City Manager requested the Commission's feedback and suggestions for how best to manage the resource. Frank Richardson recommended that a site walk be conducted to evaluate the current conditions of the dam parcel and its

potential for reuse. The site walk was scheduled for August 20, 2011, immediately following the site walk at 24 Interstate Drive.

- C. Update on the Somersworth Sustainability Committee. Liz Wilson summarized the May and July, 2011 meetings. The Committee is currently pursuing grant funding to establish community gardens, drafting an ordinance to allow chickens on residential properties, and drafting a decision making checklist for City councilors and departments. The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2011.
  - D. Member items and reports. Imants Millers mentioned that at the last Willand Pond meeting, a business person from Connecticut expressed the intent to work with the City of Dover to organize an ice hockey tournament on the pond. The event would include vendors. Imants Millers said that he spoke during the meeting to suggest that the business person also include Somersworth in discussions about putting on such an event.
  - E. City Planner's report. Dave Sharples stated that he received the stormwater report for Home Depot.
  - F. Any other new business. Dave Sharples stated that Somersworth Hydro Company has submitted a permit by notification (PBN) to conduct maintenance dredging around the intake of their hydroelectric facility. Approval can be expedited if the Commission signs the PBN expressing their approval. No one on the Commission had any objections to the proposed dredging. Imants Millers made a motion for the Commission chair to sign the PBN, and Al Bryant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Workshop business. None.
5. Adjournment. Liz Wilson moved to adjourn. Al Bryant seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Wilson (interim Secretary)