

## MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

February 9, 2011 Council Chambers – City Hall

7:00 PM

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

1. Minutes of previous meeting. Scott Gessis indicated that the word “manmade” was misspelled in section C of the November 2010 minutes, and two items in the minutes were incorrectly numbered. Dale Smith-Kenyon stated that the words “Commission contact the” be inserted into Section B, such that the new sentence reads, “Dave Sharples responded that a meeting regarding the facility was postponed and suggested that a member of the Commission contact the Town of Berwick for additional information.” Dale Smith-Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2010 as amended. Al Bryant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Old Business
  - A. Any old business that may come before the Commission. Imants Millers asked about the status of the Salmon Falls/Rocky Hill property purchase. Dave Sharples responded saying that the golf course has purchased the property and is working on a proposal to DES. Imants Millers asked if the property has a conservation easement. Dave Sharples said that there is no easement but that the Commission should consider what to do with the land. It has been set aside for conservation, but the Commission should decide if a conservation easement is appropriate and who would hold that easement.
3. New Business
  - A. Discussion on disbursing funds for the annual membership to the Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC). Dale Smith-Kenyon made a motion that the Commission support SRC at the \$100 *Sustainer* level for the 2011 calendar year. Scott Gessis seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
  - B. Discussion regarding developing a town and landscape scale invasive plant control strategy for the Great Bay and Coastal watersheds. The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is requesting input from municipalities to identify large populations of invasive species within the City. Frank Richardson, who added this item to the agenda, was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, this topic will be discussed further during the March 2011 meeting.
  - C. Election of Officers. Al Bryant made a motion to maintain the current officer positions. Dale Smith-Kenyon seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.
  - D. Update on Citizens for a Sustainable Somersworth (CSS). Liz Wilson provided a summary of the January 2011 CSS meeting. During the January 2011 meeting, there was a discussion of forming a local energy committee to support the participation of the City in the Energy Technical Assistance Program (ETAP). The City is currently working with ETAP to conduct an energy audit of municipal buildings and use a web-based tool to identify

energy efficiency projects and track progress. Coming from the discussion of ETAP emerged the idea that the City should have a formal sustainability committee. The Mayor said he would be willing to draft a resolution of such a committee and introduce it to the City Council. The resolution was introduced to the Council on February 7, 2011 and will be voted on during the February 22, 2011 council meeting. The February CSS meeting will take place on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and guest speakers from ETAP will be present to discuss the program and the formation of an energy committee. Additionally, John Jackman will present information on City infrastructure.

E. Member items and reports. None.

F. City Planner's report. 1) Dave Sharples, Bob Belmore, and Craig Wheeler met with the DES to discuss the Breton Cleaners property. If the City were to take the property and remediate the site, there is \$200,000 of grant money available to conduct demolition activities. However, the DES estimated that the work would likely cost approximately \$260,000, resulting in some unfunded work. Dave Sharples indicated that there is grant funding available for asbestos, lead, and hazardous material removal, but that the City must own the property prior to applying for the grant money. There are some significant unknowns in pursuing this project, namely liability, cost, and long term monitoring of the site (DES may or may not be able to assist with monitoring the site). DES can help get the project started, but the City will have to make the commitment to remediate the property. Given that the City would have to fund a portion of cleanup costs at Breton Cleaners, the Commission decided to table this idea for a while and review the potential project at another time.

G. Any other new business. None.

4. Workshop business. None.

5. Adjournment. Al Bryant moved to adjourn. Dale Smith-Kenyon seconded. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Wilson (interim Secretary)

\