

MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

May 11, 2011 Council Chambers – City Hall

7:00 PM

Attending: Frank Richardson, Dale Smith-Kenyon, Scott Gessis, Liz Wilson, Muriel Ring, City Planner Dave Sharples

1. Minutes of previous meeting. Scott Gessis made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting. Dale Smith-Kenyon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Old Business
 - A. Presentation by the City Planner regarding GIS capabilities of the City. (upon request by the City Planner, this presentation took place at the end of the meeting) Dave Sharples introduced the capabilities of the Geographic Information System (GIS) software ArcView including the types of data that are available. Dave Sharples demonstrated to the Commission how data such as tax map parcel shapes, water and sewer lines, flood zones, parks, wetlands, aerial photography can be layered and evaluated. The Commission can use GIS data as part of conservation easement monitoring, identifying and evaluating City open space, and examining changes in land use over time.
 - B. Any old business that may come before the Commission. None.
3. New Business
 - A. Update on the Somersworth Sustainability Committee. Liz Wilson summarized the April 21, 2011 meeting. During the April meeting, the Committee continued to discuss its mission statement and ways to communicate with the public, such as Facebook, a website, TV22 announcements, and the City newsletter. Craig Wheeler summarized where sustainability is incorporated into the Master Plan. Liz Wilson presented the findings from the sustainability assessment of City practices. The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. Frank Richardson asked about the status of the Hilltop School reuse issue and the resolutions recently introduced at City Council meetings. Liz Wilson responded that there are currently three resolutions regarding the Hilltop School: to authorize the City Manager to draft a purchase and sales agreement with a developer, to maintain city ownership and develop the school building and grounds into a public space, and to authorize the City Manager to obtain cost estimates for demolishing the building. Mayor Soldati has referred the resolution associated with obtaining quotes for demolition to the Sustainability Committee. This resolution will be discussed during the May 2011 Committee meeting.
 - B. Member items and reports. None.
 - C. City Planner's report. 1) The Commission was provided with an updated contact sheet for Land Use Board Members. 2) The Davis property on Otis Road is the subject of a wetlands violation. The property owner was served notice that he is being sued by the City for the violations. 3) Another wetlands complaint has been filed by the City to the DES based on suspected fill at a Blackwater Road property. 4) The Planning Board is moving forward with PREP for the development of a Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance, which will address both stormwater quantity

and quality. The City is currently looking for a consultant to assist with the project. Dave Sharples indicated that he envisions the Commission reviewing the draft ordinance.

D. Any other new business. None.

4. Workshop business. None.

5. Adjournment. Dale Smith-Kenyon moved to adjourn. Scott Gessis seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Wilson (interim Secretary)