

MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

January 8, 2014

Council Chambers – City Hall

7:00 PM

Attending: Imants Millers, Liz Wilson, Dale Smith-Kenyon, Emily Kenyon, Frank Richardson,  
Director of Planning and Community Development Dave Sharples

1) Approval of meeting minutes. Dale Smith-Kenyon made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the December 11, 2013 workshop. Imants Millers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2) OLD BUSINESS

A. Any old business that may come before the Commission. None.

3) NEW BUSINESS

A. Twelve Month, LLC is seeking a conditional use permit for a single family residential subdivision with wetland impacts on a property located at 31 Stackpole Road and 301 Green Street. Joe Falzone of Twelve Month presented the proposed subdivision project, including 177 residential lots, varying between 8,000 and 15,000 square feet in size. The entire property is 159 acres, with 29 acres (19%) of wetland, including a vernal pool. There are 3 areas of wetlands impacts, totaling 8,700 square feet.

According to James Long of GZA consultants, the property includes grouse, alder thickets, stands of hardwood, and an existing trail system. No function assessment has been conducted but the site appears to be diverse. Mr. Falzone then indicated that if the Commission is interested in establishing a conservation easement on the property, he would be open to developing the first phase of residential lots and place the second phase into conservation. Frank Richardson requested more information from Mr. Falzone about the process for placing some of the land into conservation.

Dave Sharples indicated that 28 lots are situated within 100 feet of wetlands and that the conditional use permit application needs to show this. The plans also need to show areas of proposed clearing, final grading, and development within the buffer. Frank Richardson requested that the Commission see revised plans for the next meeting, as well as requested a brief habitat assessment from James Long of GZA.

B. Mast Point Dam Revitalization project update and review of task list. Dale Smith-Kenyon continues work on options for stocking fish at the property. Liz Wilson and George Wentworth continue to work on signage, and expect samples of sign materials for consideration.

C. Election of Officers. Liz Wilson made a motion to keep the current slate of officers in 2014. Imants Millers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Update on the Somersworth Sustainability Committee. Liz Wilson summarized current Committee activities for 2014, which include community garden subcommittee meetings, garden cleanup events, and a film and speaker series.

E. Member Items and Reports. None.

F. Director of Planning and Community Development's Report. A presentation on the solar farm feasibility study will take place on February 18, 2014 at 5pm.

G. Any other new business that may come before the Commission. None.

4) WORKSHOP BUSINESS

A. Any workshop business that may come before the Commission. None.

5) Adjournment. Dale Smith-Kenyon made a motion to adjourn. Emily Kenyon seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Wilson (Secretary)