MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

May 14, 2014 Council Chambers – City Hall 7:00 PM
Attending: Imants Millers, Liz Wilson, Dale Smith-Kenyon, Emilee Kenyon , Angela Ficco-Orzechowski, Frank Richardson, Director of Planning and Community Development Dave Sharples

1) Approval of meeting minutes. Imants Millers made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2014 workshop and the April 15, 2014 meeting. Dale Smith-Kenyon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2) OLD BUSINESS. None.

3) NEW BUSINESS

   A. Discussion on the installation of solar panels at Crockett's Crossing on 445 Main Street. Henry Brant, owner of Crockett's Crossing, presented the concept of installing solar panels at the 30 acre property. The panels would offset the electrical usage of the development. Panels are proposed for installation over a wetland area, because architectural features on homes, such as gables, prohibit installation on roofs. In addition, other areas of the property experience too much shade. NHDES has been contacted, and the DES indicated that installation of panels over a wetland would likely be approved as long as the panels are not in the wetland. Pilings are proposed to be installed in the wetland buffer. Liz Wilson asked if the wetland served any stormwater management function. Mr. Brant replied that stormwater does flow into and out of the wetland; however, the management function of the wetland would not be impacted. Frank Richardson asked if it was a natural wetland. Mr. Brant said that it was. Although not allowable under current regulations, this wetland acts as a stormwater management structure. This wetland is already impacted based on its function. Mr. Brant will proceed with applications related to this project.
   B. Mast Point Dam Revitalization project update. The project is on hold until funds are released. However, 25 volunteers from Liberty Mutual have performed some trail clearing at the site. Dave Sharples also received a call regarding the use of inmates to help with trail building.
   C. Somersworth Sustainability Committee report. Liz Wilson reported that 28 out of 32 plots at the community garden have been assigned, and a cleanup event took place at the garden as part of Spirit Up Day. A documentary about community sustainability efforts was shown at the April meeting as part of a new film series. The next film will be presented on June 19th. A presentation on organic gardening will take place at the May meeting on May 15th in Council Chambers.
   D. Member items and reports. None.
   E. Director of Planning and Community Development's report. NHDES was onsite at the Davis property on Otis Road in connection with wetlands violations at that location. The DES may get the Attorney General involved with the violations.
   F. Any other new business that may come before the Commission. None.

4) WORKSHOP BUSINESS. None

Adjournment. Dale Smith-Kenyon made a motion to adjourn. Emilee Kenyon seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Wilson (Secretary)