

MINUTES TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING – SOMERSWORTH, NH

December 10, 2014 Council Chambers – City Hall

7:00 PM

Attending: Liz Wilson, Angela Ficco-Orzechowski, Frank Richardson, Jeremy Rhodes, Imants Millers, Scott Orzechowski, Director of Planning and Community Development Dave Sharples

1) Approval of November 2014 meeting minutes. Liz Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting and site walk. Imants Millers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2) OLD BUSINESS.

A. John J. Flatley is seeking a conditional use permit for work within the wetland buffer on property located on Tri City Road. Nathan Chamberlain of Fieldstone presented the most up to date plans for the development of a housing development on Tri City Road. The latest plans include using a vegetated ditch rather than a drainage pipe to manage stormwater in a portion of the property. In addition, the developer is considering ways to incorporate pedestrian access to the site. A small PVC pipe culvert was observed in the unpaved utility roadways during the site walk. There is no proposed change to this pipe.

Imants Millers asked about the ability for the existing trees to survive long-term. Frank Richardson indicated that the tree species are weedy, and that there are few tree species of significant value. In regards to the planting plan, Frank Richardson asked about how the Commission can verify that the plan was followed. Dave Sharples responded that he checks to make sure the correct species are planted.

Scott Orzechowski made a motion that the Commission approve the conditional use permit with notes. Imants Millers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Any other old business that may come before the Commission. Scott Orzechowski attended a conference focused on youth and Conservation Commission engagement. One conference session of note was related to climate change and addressing flooding, roadways, downtown areas, and heat sinks.

3) NEW BUSINESS

A. Somersworth Sustainability Committee report. Liz Wilson reported that the Committee is exploring the feasibility of a green purchasing program, energy conservation at schools, and collaborating with the Berwick Sustainability Committee.

B. Member items and reports. Scott Orzechowski asked if the City has an inventory of projects, conservation lands, or other natural resources. Dave Sharples responded that he has much of this type of data. Liz Wilson suggested that there is potential for the Commission to add more of this type of information to the Commission's section of the City website.

C. Director of Planning and Community Development's report.

- 1) Dave Sharples reported that a UNH undergraduate intern is going to coordinate the Mast Pointe Dam recreation area project. There is additional archeological work that needs to be done on the site, and Dave has received there scopes of work. Some vegetation clearing needs to be done, but large equipment cannot be used due to the archeological study. Design and permitting work needs to be done for the hand carry boat launch, including a wetland delineation. Angela Ficco-Orzechowski suggested that the Commission can work with youth to do trail building and make trail maps.

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

- 4) WORKSHOP BUSINESS. None

Adjournment. Liz Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Angela Ficco-Orzechowski seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Wilson (Secretary)