

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 9, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Angela Ficco
Larry Hamilton
Scott Orzechowski
Jeremy Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah McGraw
Mercedes O'Donohue
Dale Smith-Kenyon

STAFF PRESENT: Shanna B. Saunders, Director of Planning and Community Development.

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 6:04 p.m.

1) **Approval of meeting minutes**

Conservation Meeting minutes September 11 2019 (Regular)

L. Hamilton moved that we accept the minutes as submitted, A. Ficco seconded.
Passed unanimously

2) **Public Comment**

No Public Comments

3) **New Business**

A) Wentworth-Douglass Hospital is seeking an after-the-fact Conditional Use Permit for a one mile long nature trail in the wetland buffer on a property located at 23 Works Way in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map 61 Lot 14B CUP #08-2019

The Physical Plant manager for the facility (The Works), David Dagenais presents. The intent of the trail is to be used as a teaching tool for the facility's summer program; this was already used in this past summer's children's programming

The trail consists of 5-foot wide landscaping fabric covered in wood chips. At the points where the trail crosses perennial streams, 18" culvert was placed in the stream and covered with timber and decking bridges. Areas with intermittent stream had 4" unfiltered/unscreened drainage piping placed and then covered with the same fabric and wood chip material.

An approximately 70 foot length of decking is in place over a wet area of the trail as well, at the end of the trail (if traveling clockwise around marked trail).

NHDES will be notified of the impact, and will need to view the site to determine required remediation.

The Commission will want a site walk to view impacts as well; this will be held on October 27th at 10 AM.

A. Ficco moves to continue this item to the next meeting of the Commission to discuss findings from our site walk and NHDES. L. Hamilton Seconds; approved Unanimously.

B) Report from the Mayor's Commission on Preserve Somersworth

The Commission met; Conservation, Sustainability, and the Mayor are present on this effort. The Commission's primary goal is to develop a ten-year master plan, and will meet again in October. The first step in this effort is to develop a current baseline of the state of the city.

C) Any new business that may come before the commission

Our membership in the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions is due for renewal. This is a \$500 fee.

A. Ficco moves that we release \$500 from the Commission's funds to renew our membership. L. Hamilton seconds; passed unanimously.

4) Old Business

A) Member items, sub-committee items, and reports

Paris to Pittsburgh was shown as the first item in the continuing climate schedule to a good turnout; a discussion followed.

New wetland rules are coming into effect statewide on December 17th; the main impact to our business will be a shortened window for PBN wetland impact items, reducing our comment turnaround to 5 days.

B) Update regarding the property at 63 Coles Pond Road

A site visit with the grantor and real estate agent (seller's) is scheduled for the 17th. Relatives of the owner and NHDES will also be present for this session; we appear to be in contention for the grant. Approval was granted for the chosen appraiser; We are progressing well towards a contract.

C) Any new business that may come before the commission

None

C) Signage for Frank Richardson Trail

Staff is proceeding with signage acquisition.

D) Malley Farm Cottontail Habitat

NH Fish & Game representatives are working with the city to move forward; the city appears ready to do so.

E) Japanese Knotweed Control

The goats (and their handlers) are in town and happily eating the knotweed (the goats, not the handlers...). Currently working on the ballfield fence at Noble

Pines. Five days of the goats time is costing the city \$783, a very low fee for this type of work. Further use in the city could be helpful.

F) Any Other Member/Sub-Committee Reports

None

G) Any Other Old Business That May Come Before the Commission

None

6) Treasurer's Report

No report this session.

A Ficco moved to adjourn; L Hamilton seconded. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary