

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
February 12, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Hamilton  
Sarah McGraw - Small  
Mercedes O'Donohue  
Scott Orzechowski  
Jeremy Rhodes

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Angela Ficco  
Dale Smith-Kenyon

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

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 6:05 pm.

1) **Approval of meeting minutes**

Conservation Meeting minutes November 13 2019 (Regular)

Note requested to indicate that all items in public comment section were per the speaker, and not confirmed determinations.

S. McGraw-Small moves to accept as amended; L. Hamilton seconds. Passed unanimously.

2) **Public Comment**

No Public comments

3) **Continued Applications**

A) Steven E. Brown is seeking an After the Fact Conditional Use Permit to allow earthwork activities within the 100' wetland buffer on properties located at Commercial and Willand Drive, in the Commercial Industrial (C/I) district, Assessor's Map 43, Lots 1-G, 1-I, & 1-K, CUP#05-2019

Neither Mr. Brown nor his representatives were in attendance.

Neither Mr. Brown nor his representatives have provided any update to city staff, despite numerous requests for information.

J. Rhodes moves that the Conservation Commission recommend denial of the requested CUP based on the applicant's lack of response and cooperation with city staff, and that further the Commission requests that city staff be authorized to take whatever action is deemed necessary to bring the applicant into compliance, including notification of the NHDES due to erosion impacts of designated wetlands and litigation. L. Hamilton seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Wentworth-Douglass Hospital is seeking a conditional use permit for a 1 mile long nature trail in the wetland buffer on a property located at 23 Works Way, in the Commercial Industrial (C/I) District, Assessor's Map 61 Lot 14B, CUP#08-2019

The applicant has recently received updated information from their engineering firm and has requested a continuance to next month's meeting certain to develop and present their remediation actions.

J. Rhodes moves that the request for continuance be granted. S. McGraw-Small seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

4) **New Business**

A) Election of Officers

As two members, including current officers are absent, S Orzechowski moves that we hold officer elections at the scheduled March meeting. J. Rhodes seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Any new business that may come before the commission

S. Saunders notes that Green Mountain Power has submitted paperwork for maintenance at the hydroelectric generator at Olde Mill Road (Baxter Mill); this will involve a CUP. The Commission should expect this CUP shortly.

5) **Old Business**

**A) Salmon Falls Woods (Mast Point Dam) Easement Site Walk Report**

S. McGraw-Small, S. Orzachowski and A. Ficco walked the trail and some off-trail areas. There is some trail encroachment by young pine trees; a management plan may be in order for this area. There is a silt fence near the boat launch that could be removed. The north side of the park shows some erosion near an ad hoc boat launch; some additional stone to stabilize the slope would be helpful. There appeared to be some unauthorized behavioral activity that's taken place in the park as well; rules enforcement is requested.

**B) Member Items, Sub-Committee Items, and Reports**

Former wellhead parcel was also walked by all three. Approximately 60% of the boundaries were accessible; remainder was impassible due to saturation. Large amounts of trash, including an unauthorized dump site, were noted near Copperhead Road, as well as a number of partially sunken barrels. Deer, fox, and beaver activity, as well as bird and small mammal presence, was apparent. There is a gravel pit in the northeast of the lot in protected areas, but it appears stable for 15+ years. An abutting property (5 Westwood Lane) shows signs of extensive cutting, including off of the parcel and into city and other private parcels' buffer areas; city staff will follow up.

**C) Update regarding the property at 53 Coles Pond Road**

J. Rhodes moved to enter non-public session under RSA91-A:3(d) at 6:39 PM, as the matters to be discussed concern the consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of

real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Seconded by S McGraw-Small. Approval unanimous by roll call vote.

The Commission closed the nonpublic session and returned to its public meeting at 6:49PM.

**D) Signage for Frank Richardson Trail**

Signs are in and will be placed as soon as the ground thaws.

**E) Malley Farm Cottontail Habitat**

Currently with NH F&G; city staff will follow up.

**F) Japanese Knotweed Control**

Roadway tailings will be placed near the ballfield at Noble Pines park in an attempt to control the knotweed; effectiveness will be monitored.

**G) Any Other Member/Sub-Committee Reports**

None

**H) Any Other Old Business That May Come Before the Commission**

Rebecca DiGiolomo is the new UNH Cooperative Extension field specialist and has reached out to offer assistance. She can be reached at:

Rebecca DiGiolomo  
273 Locust St, Suite A  
Dover, NH, 03820  
603-749-2529

6) **Treasurer's Report**

Current Balance is \$146,344.13

S. McGraw-Small moved to adjourn; L. Hamilton seconded. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jeremy Rhodes  
Conservation Commission Secretary