

**Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 10, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeremy Degler  
Sarah Eckstein  
Angela Ficco  
Larry Hamilton  
Mercedes O'Donohue  
Scott Orzechowski  
Jeremy Rhodes  
Dale Smith-Kenyon

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 6:01 pm. Please note that this meeting was held remotely due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency; all votes will be recorded by roll call as a consequence.

**1)** Approval of meeting minutes.

Regular Meeting of 2/10/2021

Angela Ficco was, in fact, present.

Motion to approve L. Hamilton, seconded by D. Smith-Kenyon.

Vote:

J. Degler: Abstain

S. Eckstein: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0-1

**2)** **Public Comment**

Comment received today from Dorothy Larkin re: cutting at the Oaks golf course; Red Pine on the site have been infested with an insect and are scheduled to be removed. The correspondent has questions regarding the work; these are being addressed with the city manager by M. Mears.

**3)** **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Any385 Route 16 Realty Corp. is seeking a conditional use permit to construct stormwater management within the Riparian and Wetland Buffer for the expansion of an existing automobile sales and service facility located at 385 Route 108 in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map 49 Lot 46 and Map 57 Lot 02, CUP#01-2021

Mark Lawler (Civil Engineer) and Marc Jacobs (Wetland Scientist) of Norway Plains is representing the applicant. The work is to remove structure damaged in a fire, develop a new extension, and undertake grading and stormwater management. The CUP regards the grading and stormwater work. Lot 46 is currently undeveloped and will be joined; the grading work primarily occurs in this current lot. All structure construction is to occur outside the 75' buffer, although impervious pavement will occur in this area. The work will add substantial stormwater management; an existing small infiltration basin will be removed and replaced with a sediment forebay, a large infiltration basin, and a 25 year+ storm discharge pipe. A comprehensive plan was forwarded to 3<sup>rd</sup> party review with minor comments – no substantive changes to the plan will be required. The current management has sheet flow into the packed gravel area; the new approach includes granite curbing to channel flow. A second area close to West High street will be channeled to a settling basin which will then discharge post-treatment. No direct wetland impacts are planned. An earlier submitted plan did include more substantial impact, but that plan has been abandoned and replaced with the current one.

Plantings being proposed are native species, including food providers for wildlife. Temporary erosion control will be in place for the construction period. Permanent controls will remain post-construction. Paving will be standard hot bituminous.

Motion to recommend the CUP to Planning for approval by J. Degler, seconded by D. Smith-Kenyon.

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

S. Eckstein: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Abstain

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0-1

- B. Craig Riotto is seeking a conditional use permit to fill 5,465 SF of wetlands to construct an athletic/fitness facility and infrastructure on a property located at 165 Route 108 in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map 63 Lot 10, CUP#02-2021

Geoff Aleva from Civil Consultants presents for the applicant. This is in the area behind the driving range and Hilltop Fun Center. There is a man-made wetland that's the remnant of soil excavation and collection from prior construction; this is proposed to be filled for construction of the facility. The construction plan includes stormwater treatment that is currently not being treated in any way. The treatment will be handled

with permeable pavement that will then discharge. There are vegetated filter swales and bioretention areas to be in place and tree boxes for other runoff. The building will have a surrounding swale for runoff from the structure as well. Plantings proposed are natives with the exception of honey locust. The applicants will remove these specific plantings from the planned plantings list.

Snow removal is planned to push eastward; this will not be placed on permeable pavement, but will loop up and around onto non-treatment areas. There will be restrictions on salt and sand due to the permeable pavement and a management plan will be included as well. The north and west sides of the building are paved only for emergency access and snow management; these will be locked off except during these uses.

Motion to recommend the CUP to Planning for approval by J. Degler, seconded by D. Smith-Kenyon.

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0-0

C. Any Other New Business

Zoning ordinance was adopted as proposed.

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Wetland encroachment at former well parcel

No Updates on this item; Code Enforcement will attend the next session to explain what's been discovered. M. Mears will discuss legal engagement with the city manager to determine approach options.

B. MEMBER ITEMS, SUB-COMMITTEE ITEMS, AND REPORTS

a. Low-Flow Showerheads

S. Orzechowski will follow up.

b. Hats

Available at city hall for pickup.

c. Update regarding the property at 53 Coles Pond Road

DES has responded requesting baseline data prior to closing; this will be collected next week. The seller is aware.

d. Habitat restoration at Sunningdale easement

NRCS is not cutting any mature trees on the site, but invasives and undergrowth/scrub cutting has occurred; need to be certain the city doesn't mow at the site. Trail maintenance and ATV usage will need to be addressed.

e. Sustainability Updates

Committee is being restructured to streamline decision making and improve recruitment. There is an open vacancy. The focus for the first half of the year will be community education and engagement around water conservation, net metering, and pesticide reduction. There's a prospect of a second hazmat day in the fall as well.

f. Any other old business that may come before the Commission  
None.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

	City of Somersworth, NH	
	Conservation Commission, Fund Balance	
	February 28, 2021	
January 31, 2021	Balance Forward	\$ 137,373.93
	Receipts:	
	Interest Received	2.25
	Disbursements:	0.00
February 28, 2021	Ending Balance	\$ 137,376.18

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn, J. Rhodes seconds

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Proud past, bright future

Motion Carries 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jeremy Rhodes  
Conservation Commission Secretary