

Conservation Commission
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 14, 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 6:04 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 3/10/2021

Motion to approve L. Hamilton, seconded by J. Degler.

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

S. Eckstein: Abstain

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**

No comments received

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ian Joseph Campbell, LLC, is seeking a conditional use permit to construct a solar array on 3' (6' x 6') concrete pedestal within the 100' wetland buffer on a property located at 413 High Street, in the Residential/Commercial District (R/C) District, Assessor's Map 36 Lot 3A, CUP#03-2021

The commission and applicant discussed the position of the post; the submitted documentation does not make clear precisely where on site this is to be poured. The area indicated does move closer to a designated wetland than the prior posts. This creates some concern around the placement of the post.

Motion to table until further submittals detailing location of post by D. Smith-Kenyon, seconded by J. Rhodes.

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

S. Eckstein: Aye

A. Ficco: Abstain

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0-1

B. Any Other New Business

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Wetland encroachment at former well parcel

M. Mears to follow up with J. Degler regarding this site, around planting mix to be placed.

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

- a. Low-Flow Showerheads - S. Orzechowski to reach out to city regarding low-flow showerhead distribution.
- b. Pending term expiry – L. Hamilton
Larry has indicated that he intends to let his term expire as a member of the commission, and as treasurer; replacement for L. Hamilton as treasurer; S. Eckstein has volunteered to step into his position as Treasurer and will meet with Larry for knowledge transfer.
- c. A. Ficco notes that we should be looking at further site walks, particularly on projects with known wetland impact. Broad agreement.
- d. 53 Coles Pond Road Update
Closing scheduled for May 17 2021; Final grant paperwork, titling, and deeding are in process. Grant closeout is due June 1. A stewardship plan and monitoring agreement is required as well.
- e. Cottontail release
A. Ficco raised contacting Fish and Game to discuss the prospect of rescheduling. M. Mears will coordinate with A. Ficco to determine approach. City was working with Fish and Game on letter of agreement to schedule release; this has been delayed due to staffing at Fish and Game stemming from COVID impact.
Rabbits were also not available from the zoo-based breeding program due to skeleton crew staffing at these facilities.
- f. Red Pine at Oaks Golf Course

M. Mears has followed up regarding cutting; they would require approval from city council to cut, and no request has been made. No work is planned.

- g. 56 Indigo Hill Rd
Appears to be a building (shed) that's been constructed in wetland, along with a boardwalk. M. Mears will follow up with code enforcement for this item.
- h. Notes regarding ATV trails
ATV riders require permission from owners to cross lands; posting to deny this is not required. This may be of use in dealing with these ongoing issues.
- i. Commercial Drive Culverts
During a previous site walk, there were a number of culverts along commercial drive that were noted as being impeded or damaged; these may require further check and improvement. M. Mears will follow up with DPW regarding these.
- j. Wetland and Zoning Ordinances
Zoning ordinances, including conservation subdivision and groundwater protection are relevant to our work. These would be helpful to review.
- k. Communication from the committee and sustainability
Given the large range of issues that could be addressed, S. Orzechowski recommends creation of a single source for messaging regarding the city's goals from an environmental perspective. This could be conducted in concert with the sustainability commission. To that end, S. Eckstein recommends that we include items in the city newsletter; these will be generated by sustainability members and submitted for publication in the newsletter each month. The intent here is to engage the public and encourage more community learning and involvement. The next discussion will be on April 27, at a joint discussion with officials from Somersworth and Dover.

5. Treasurer's Report

As of Feb 28, balance was \$137,376.18, receipts were interest of \$2.64, leading to an ending balance on Mar 31 of \$137,378.82

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn, A. Ficco 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

Motion Carries 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary