

Somersworth Conservation Commission
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Angela Ficco
Jeremy Degler
Sarah Eckstein
Jeremy Rhodes
Dale Smith-Kenyon (acting chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Orzechowski

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by D. Smith-Kenyon at 6:03 pm.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Regular meeting of 11/10/2021

A. Ficco moves to approve, J. Degler seconds. Motion Carries 5-0-0

2. Public Comment

No public comment received

3. New Business

- A. **FFF Holdings is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for construction of a common driveway, utilities, and future lot development impacting the vegetative and woodland buffer on a property located on property located at Bernier Street in the Residential Single Family and Residential Duplex (R1 & R2) Districts, Assessor's Map 36 Lot 24, CUP#07-2021.**

Dave Francouer (applicant) presents. The lot in question (St. Theresa) has been previously approved for a large conventional subdivision (approximately 15 lots). The application in this case is for a 4-lot conservation subdivision, placing the lots at approximately one acre each while minimizing wetland encroachment. No direct wetland impact is proposed in the subdivision, with disturbance of buffer occurring in both wooded and vegetative buffer spaces.

The plan was presented at last month's planning board meeting for conceptual review and met with general agreement there.

This subdivision is intended to use septic for wastewater; septic systems are not marked on the submitted plan. The applicant is amenable to a condition requiring septic systems not be placed in buffer in order to minimize disruption of buffer land. Concerns raised regarding lot 2, as that lot includes private ownership of buffer land directly up to the wetland boundary. Applicant is amenable to a deed restriction preventing the owner from use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides and disallowing cutting within buffer. Substantial wetland borders exist within this lot; M. Mears notes that the developer could be required to tag the boundaries with city conservation markers; the applicant states there are no objections to that requirement.

- B. J. Rhodes moves that the request of FFF Holdings for a Conditional Use Permit for construction of a common driveway, utilities, and future lot development impacting the

vegetative and woodland buffer on a property located on property located at Bernier Street in the Residential Single Family and Residential Duplex (R1 & R2) Districts, Assessor's Map 36 Lot 24, CUP#07-2021 be **recommended for approval by the Somersworth Planning Board with the following conditions:**

- a. A deed restriction be placed on lot 24-2 preventing the use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other pest control chemicals and disallowing cutting within the wetland buffers
- b. That the wetland boundary be marked throughout the subdivision with city markers
- c. That no septic facilities be placed within buffer lands for any lot.

J. Degler seconds. Motion Carries 5-0-0

C. Any Correspondence

Kate Levitt of the Seacoast Science Center is in the early stages of application for a grant for educational programs for middle and high school students, and is seeking input from a commission member. Please contact S. Orzechowski to take part.

D. Any other new business to come before the commission

None

4. Old Business

A. NWF Somersworth Helping Wildlife Project

- i. Somersworth site is up
- ii. Links and tips posted
- iii. Received startup packet
- iv. Points submitted
- v. Outreach to Wild Birds Unlimited
- vi. Potential task to reach out to nurseries to sell natives

The packet has been received and the site is up; points are submitted and in progress. Outreach to Wild Birds Unlimited is in progress. S. Orzechowski is looking to partner with J. Degler to reach out to nearby nurseries to sell true natives as opposed to hybrids.

B. Easement Monitoring

- i. Update on Medical Mile
 1. Code Enforcement
 2. Removal of refuse

DPW has been contacted regarding refuse on the property; D. Smith-Kenyon will follow up. J. Degler and S. Eckstein will follow up with possible code enforcement issues on site.

C. Getting Lily Pond Property into Granitview and to SRPC

M. Mears is working with DES to complete this; only one item remains.

D. Marking Lily Pond conservation boundaries

Boundaries should have been set by surveyor.

E. Tree City USA Signs

Signs have arrived; M. Mears will work with DPW to place.

F. Getting map coordinates for easement monitoring

M. Mears working with SRPC with this item.

G. Member Items, Subcommittee Items, and Reports

- i. Update on Malley Farm cottontail release planning

Cottontails are available for release; approval is needed from council. Effort has cleared committee with a recommendation for approval and will be voted on. Site prep and release will be handled by DES and cooperative extension, as will monitoring and any further required releases.

- ii. Entomologist walk

Update sought from S. Orzechowski

- iii. Lily Pond wildlife management plan

Update needed.

- iv. Invasives plan subcommittee report

D. Smith-Kenyon to update; work is focused on invasive plants at the outset.

H. Any other old business that may come before the commission

We will be joined by a new member, and potentially a new alternate; new member is in front of council.

Climate working group has sought contact with the commission regarding assessment; plan will be released on Jan 20 2022.

5. Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$159,164.34, with income from interest and disbursement for tree city signs.

6. Sustainability committee report

Committee is working on 2022 Actions & Goals; these will be shared once a vote has been held. The committee has a new council representative in Councilor Gerding, who also sits on the finance committee.

S. Eckstein moves to adjourn, A. Ficco seconds. Approved 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary