

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
November 14 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bryar, Sarah Childs, Kevin Dodds, Angela Ficco, Scott Orzechowski (joined in progress), Jeremy Rhodes, Dale Smith-Kenyon (acting chair at start of meeting)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Degler

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by D. Smith-Kenyon at 6:02 pm.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Corrections to Minutes of September 14:

- Paragraph 1, row 3: She = Shed
- Item D – Spacing issue noted
- Item E – Address referenced is #60
- Item E, paragraph 3 – Dumpsters should be singular, spacing issue noted
- Item E, paragraph 11 – Mayor’s Report addresses this item
- Pg 4, paragraph 3 – add Landscaping to front buffer
- Pg5, paragraph 1 – add ‘if hunters are closer than 300 feet’ and note that HOAs can bar ATVs by posting no trespassing signs
- Pg 5, item E – Note that UNH and NHF&G contributed, note that a further spring release is planned.

S. Childs moves to approve as amended, D. Bryar Seconds, motion carries 4 – 0 – 1 (Rhodes)

2) PUBLIC COMMENT (five minutes per person and subject to closure in interest of time)

None

3) NEW BUSINESS

A. Establish Date for Regular Meeting in December

Through discussion, it was determined that December 12, 2022 was the most acceptable date. J. Rhodes moves to move the regular December meeting to December 12, 2022 at 6 PM in council chambers. S. Childs seconds, motion carries unanimously.

S. Orzechowski enters at this point and assumes chair

B. Any correspondence - None

C. Any new business to come before the Commission

Email received from Molly Fendbery regarding the conservation parcel partially funded by a drinking water protection grant; a water quality monitoring report is due by January 2 2023; she’s volunteered to accompany a representative on a site walk to collect if needed. A reminder will be sent in December as well. She’ll also provide required signs and forms needed. M. Mears will coordinate this effort.

4) OLD BUSINESS

A. Packy's Investment LLC is seeking a conditional use permit for 12,235 SF impact to the Riparian and Wetland Buffer as part of a commercial development on a property located at 363 Route 108, in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map 48 Lot 22B, CUP#14-2022

Bob Stowell and the applicant are both present; Stowell presents first. The presented plan is a redesign of the one presented in October. In this revision, the buildings are shifted away from the wetland buffers; one building remains within the 100-150' buffer space. Under this new plan, overall impact is greatly reduced. One solar tracker has been removed from the buffer, impervious buffer impact has been reduced by 98%, and overall buffer impact has been reduced by 75%. Under this plan, stated impact is .6% impervious buffer impact, and 12% of woodland buffer overall, at 1500 square feet of temporary impact and 120 square feet of permanent impact. Applicant states that the light 'harvested' by the trackers is not the wavelengths used by plants, so no impact to vegetation growth is expected.

At this point in the conversation, it became clear that the applicant had not included the cutting of trees inside the woodland buffer required for solar tracker installation in their disturbance calculations. The commission expressed a desire to have accurate impact stated on the submitted materials <Secretary notes: Applicant repeatedly stated that he does not believe that vegetation removal inside the wetland buffer should be tracked as disturbance; he is the only developer in at least the past 8 years to maintain this position>.

J. Rhodes that the application be continued to the next meeting of the Conservation Commission, scheduled for December 12 2022, with the request that the applicant provide an accurate accounting of all alterations and disturbances included as a consequence of the planned construction, as well as the plan, if any, for maintenance of vegetation on the site. D. Smith-Kenyon seconds, motion passed unanimously.

B. Review and Approval of NH Association of Conservation Commissions 2023 Membership Dues

Dues in past years have been approximately \$500; D. Smith-Kenyon moves to pay the dues; A. Ficco seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Easement monitoring

S. Childs and A. Ficco visited Map 38, Lot 29, Rewell Street. Invasives noted on site included Bittersweet and Buckthorn. There is also evidence of encampment and extensive ATV/ORV use on the site. ATV Signage, including some indicating that the trails have been funded by state taxes are also present. Many, but not all, of these trails run with Eversource easements where ATV use is permitted.

Next item is to address enforcement issues near Sherwood Glen.

D. Any Correspondence

None

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

i. Lily Pond wildlife management plan

No updates at this time.

ii. Invasives plan sub-committee report

Next steps are to list known locations of invasive growth in the city. Conference attended since last session provided good guidance. Disposal methods will be distributed through the newsletter and other city sources. Hope is to address smaller patches before they can become significant.

iii. Exploration of potential trail project at Malley Farm

Change to water bars and a bridge rather than full trail due to scope of project. K. Dodds will check on Mast Point Dam project for a reference point and will build out an estimate for the project.

iv. Community Wildlife Habitat publicity

No Update

v. iNaturalist project publicity

Table/Remove

vi. Culvert Assessment

No update – expect for January session.

F. Any other old business that may come before the Commission

We were featured on NH Chronicle for the New England Cottontail release of 2 rabbits; the commission wishes to note that we have felt strongly supported by the City Council throughout this project. A potential of a spring release is being discussed.

Note sent to The Oaks regarding a middle ground on tree cutting; we are awaiting a response.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

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

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary