

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bryar
Sean Collins
Kevin Dodds
Scott Orzechowski
Jeremy Rhodes
Dale Smith-Kenyon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Degler

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 6:03 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Corrections:

- Item 3A was tabled until November
- Item C2:A site of known invasives

D. Smith-Kenyon moved to accept as amended; Sean Collins seconded. Passed 5 – 0 – 1 (K. Dodds abstained)

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

None

3. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUESTS

- A.** Michael Davis is seeking a conditional use permit for after the fact excavation and alterations within the Riparian and Wetland Buffer on a property located at 25 Otis Road, in the Residential/Single Family (R1) District, Assessor's Map 31, Lot 49, CUP#03-2023.

Michael Davis is present; he has provided a survey map and timeline.

D. Smith-Kenyon questions the direction of water flow through the site.

M. Davis indicated the outflow is through the culvert and to the wetland, goes over riprap to prevent erosion. The culvert was laid in two sections; one was between points 3 and 4 and marked in blue on the map; the remainder was the second segment. Culvert was laid in a preexisting stream and then covered with loam. In total, approximately 175 feet of culvert is present.

The only outflow is through the culvert; this was laid in a preexisting swale. The culvert is 12" diameter sewage pipe.

Applicant states the pond was dug by a previous owner, and that he believes the outflow was as well. The pond was present in a 1968 aerial photo. He states that he didn't expand the pond, and only laid the culvert and 'cleaned up' the pond edges.

Work in the buffer area involved moving soil, laying and covering the culvert, and hydroseeding the loam.

S. Orzechowski notes that this was not in keeping with the ordinance and will likely need to be modified; the applicant states that he's willing to make changes.

Trees on the site were cut in 2007, when the applicant did own the site. Stumps were removed. There was additional cutting in 2008; this was before the current buffer ordinance, but the prior ordinance was governing.

Work on the gravel pile was outside the current buffer ordinance; cutting in 2010 occurred on the mound.

Next step would be a site visit and walkthrough. Site walk set for 11/21 at 3PM.

S. Collins moves to continue to December and set the site walk for 11/21; D. Smith-Kenyon seconds. Passes unanimously.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Somersworth City Tree Survey – Elizabeth Durfee, Design & Planning, LLC
Elizabeth Durfee presents; she consulted with Dover and the SRPC on Dover's inventory. This effort was funded by the NH coastal program. This was run as an inventory and management plan in 2020. Process and volunteer recruitment were discussed; this was the first major inventory in NH, and is available on Dover's site. Primary work was centered around volunteer coordination; this was primarily handled through the Survey 1-2-3 app; data intake used the survey site and some paper maps.

Volunteers needed little training; identification was handled through the app. Low QA/QC effort, but obvious problems were corrected. Pictures of full trees and maintenance needs were collected.

The survey was linked back to the benefits of street trees, facilitating replacement of dead and dying trees, filling empty pits, and adding to low density areas. Links to climate resiliency were highlighted.

Work was initiated by the SRPC and coordinated by the city. Plans established connection to the city's master plan.

Training day and event kickoff were held over a weekend. Defined areas are critical to success. Doug Bryer has been building a spreadsheet tracking rights of way and city owned trees. This could be a guide for scope definition.

Database would be turned over to the City, and requires maintenance at that point. The presenter is willing to work with us if interested.

- B. Any new business to come before the Commission.

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Easement monitoring

No Update

B. Any Correspondence regarding old business

No Update

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

- i. Wildlife management plan for Lily Pond parcel (Scott Orzechowski)
No Update; Monitoring Report due to NHDES; S. Collins and D. Smith-Kenyon will work with NHDES to develop.
- ii. Invasives plan sub-committee report (Dale Smith-Kenyon)
Information from conference, including the NH do not plant list and control list.
- iii. Exploration of formal conservation of Malley Farm city parcel
SELT contacted; looking for an update soon. Following up with Land Law as well. Trail planning and reporting prioritization are underway as well.
- iv. City tree GPS inventory project
See 4A above.

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

6. TREASURER'S REPORT- Treasurer not in attendance tonight.

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn; J. Rhodes seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary