

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 13, 2024

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Degler
Kevin Dodds

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 6:05 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- Minutes of Regular Meeting (February 14, 2024).

Corrections:

- References to Lily Pond Rd should read Coles Pond Rd
- CUP Request B, Paragraph 2: Total tree count is 10, 7 in the 0-50 ft buffer, 3 in the 51-100 ft
- Item 3, Name is D. Smith-Kenyon

S. Collins moves to accept as amended. D. Bryar seconds

Motion carries 5 - 0 – 0

- Minutes of Workshop Meeting (February 27, 2024).

D. Smith Kenyon moves to accept as submitted, D. Bryar seconds.

Motion carries 5 - 0 – 0

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (five minutes per person and subject to closure in interest of time)
No public comment at this meeting.

3. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUESTS
No CUP requests at this meeting

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Use & Natural Resources Master Plan Chapter Workshop with Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Autumn Scott and Lisa Murphy of the SRPC speak. The following items were discussed:

- A set of target areas, noted by concurrence mapping, are targeted for conservation. These include the Sunningdale easement (already conserved), Mast Point Dam (already conserved), Malley Farm (in progress).

- Green/habitat corridors are an area of interest, and conservation efforts are seeking to establish them. The Lily Pond parcel is an example.
- Flood storage and control, wellhead protection, and protective buffers are of interest.
- Habitat management, particularly in floodplain forests and peatlands, has had significant progress but work remains.
- Interest in outreach items can be difficult to gauge, but backyard habitat efforts have been effective.
- Floodwater and property management are built-in interest for homeowners.
- Certification programs are underway; Backyard Habitat, Monarch Pledge, and Tree City are examples.
- iNaturalist and related efforts have seen some traction.
- Tracking for conserved land and easement monitoring are areas of good progress.
- We currently have a Natural Resources Assessment; a Natural Resource Inventory is desirable.
- We currently have a 150' wetland buffer (meeting statement of 300' was in error).
- Zone overlays were discussed, but likelihood of enactment is assessed as low.
- The Goals list as recommended was agreed on as a good set.

Next steps are two upcoming workshops: March 20 with the Planning Board and May 4th for public input meeting.

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

None at this time

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Review of Rules of Procedure

J. Rhodes moves to continue to permit further time for review. D. Smith-Kenyon seconds.

Motion carries 5 – 0 – 0

B. Review of the Recommended Native Tree List Proposed Revisions

Will address when K. Dodds is able to contribute.

C. Easement monitoring

No Updates at this time.

D. Any Correspondence regarding old business

No updates at this time.

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

- i. Wildlife management plan for Lily Pond parcel (Scott Orzechowski)
No updates at this time
- ii. Invasives plan sub-committee report (Dale Smith-Kenyon)
No updates at this time
- iii. Exploration of formal conservation of Malley Farm city parcel
S. Orzechowski, K. Dodds, and D. Smith-Kenyon met with the Mayor regarding the parcel; extension of an existing informally conserved parcel is under consideration. Further work is underway.
- iv. City tree GPS inventory project

Recent correspondence indicates a far higher cost than anticipated. A restriction to main roads is under consideration. D. Bryar and S. Orzechowski will check map for review.

- v. Discussion of tree replacement at Somersworth Plaza
Will address when K. Dodds is able to contribute.
- vi. Discussion of revision of recommended tree species in the tree ordinance
See 5.B above.

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

Wild Birds Unlimited involvement brainstorming is underway. Possibility of involvement at May 4 workshop meeting was discussed.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Forward:	\$260,792.18
Interest Accrued:	\$001,107.65
Expenditures:	\$000,000.00
Ending Balance:	\$261,899.83

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn, S. Collins seconds. Motion carries 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary