

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2002

Present were: Nancy Cauvet, Jane Hislop, Dorothy Watson, Jack O'Reilly, Margaret Lamson, Barbara McDonald and Kay Akerley. Absent were: Jim Leger and George Fletcher.

Chairman Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2001 were read. Nancy Cauvet made a motion that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried.

Mr. Kenneth MacGregor of Sain Associates, the firm hired by Wal-Mart to prepare landscaping plans, was present at the request of the Chairman to respond to concerns the Planning Board and Commission have regarding the condition of the landscaped area and the lack of a maintenance plan. Mr. MacGregor explained that as soon as weather permits, the five trees on the north end of the site will be replaced, as well as one evergreen tree on the east side and two azalea bushes on the south of the building. Debris on the west side of the site will be removed. As to the wetland pond, he will advise Wal-Mart to clean up its portion of the area; the remainder is owned by the NH Department of Transportation. He explained that a maintenance plan was not his responsibility -- it was solely that of Wal-Mart. He offered the Commission copies of a standard scope of work for landscape maintenance. Barbara McDonald asked if he could find out who is doing the maintenance work for Wal-Mart. Mr. MacGregor said that information would have to come from the Manager at Wal-Mart. Nancy Cauvet asked if he would be willing to change the number of trees to be replaced on the north end from five to ten. Mr. MacGregor agreed.

Barbara McDonald made a motion that any action on the question of the Wal-Mart landscaping be tabled until such time as the matter of a maintenance plan is resolved and the Commission is in receipt of a plan signed by whoever is responsible for the work. Seconded by Nancy Cauvet. There was further discussion, during which Mr. MacGregor repeated his assertion that there was no linkage between the bond and provision of a maintenance plan. The

Chairman called for a vote. The tie vote of 3 yeas and 3 nays was broken by the Chairman's deciding nay vote.

Jane Hislop made a motion to send a letter to Wal-Mart headquarters, copy to the store manager, selectmen and Planning Board, requesting that the store manager attend the Commission's next meeting on 14 February 2002 with his landscape management plan signed and the firm handling the maintenance plan identified, and that the Commission recommend to the Planning Board that they defer action until after the 14 February meeting. Seconded by Barbara McDonald. Jack O'Reilly said the letter would probably hold more weight if co-signed by him as Selectman and by Peg Lamson as Chairman of the Commission. Members agreed, and the motion was carried.

Don Leeper was present to present the proposed landscaping plan for the new Outback site. Commission members found the plan satisfactory. Nancy Cauvet made a motion that we approve the landscaping plan as presented by Mr. Leeper; seconded by Dorothy Watson. Motion carried.

There was discussion of the Rockingham County Conservation District letter to Nancy Cauvet (in her capacity as member of the Open Space Committee) in which the RCCD advised that Newington had been selected as one of the communities RCCD will assist during the next 6-9 months on the implementation of a resource conservation project. It was agreed that Nancy should contact RCCD, advise them of our project to compile a comprehensive inventory of the town's wetlands resources and inquire what, if any, monetary assistance they could be in this matter.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to correcting the resource inventory map furnished by the Rockingham Regional Planning Commission. The corrected map will be delivered by the Chairman to Tom Morgan, Town Planner, for his perusal prior to being returned to RRPC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Kay Akerley
Secretary