

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2001

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

In the absence of Chairman Lamson, Vice Chairman Kay Akerley chaired the meeting, which was convened at 7:10 p.m.

Re the minutes of 20 September 2001, Kay Akerley said Barbara McDonald, who was home ill, had called her and wished to propose a change to the third paragraph on page 2 by adding "Conservation Commission" after the words City of Portsmouth. Jane Hislop made a motion that the minutes be so revised. Seconded by Nancy Cauvet. Motion carried.

Concerning the proposed plantings at the cul-de-sac on River Road and on the berm, Kay Akerley read the letter she had sent to Gerry Gagne of Meridian Land Services at the request of Chairman Lamson. The letter referred to "lillies" and Nancy Cauvet said she thought "day lillies" should be specified. Kay Akerley said she would call Gerry Gagne and indicate day lillies were preferable.

Just prior to the meeting, Mark West of West Environmental called the Town Hall to say he had not received the proposal for the natural resource mapping for Newington from the Rockingham Planning Commission. He said he was in Durham and could come to the meeting if the Commission desired, but he would not have the proposal in hand. Commission members Jack O'Reilly and Kay Akerley and Town Planner Tom Morgan participated in the phone conversation and agreed Mark West need not attend the meeting. Mark said he would get the proposal to the town by next Friday. He did indicate that four maps were being proposed. Maps will cost \$200 each; one will be free. So total will be \$600 for this stage.

In order to have a vote on the record so payment could be facilitated when maps became available, Jane Hislop made a motion that the Commission recommend to the Selectmen that they accept the proposal of the RPC and payment not to exceed \$600 for natural resource mapping for Newington. Seconded by Dorothy Watson. Motion carried.

The Standard Dredge and Fill Application of Francis Sullivan of 34 Welch Cove to construct a 6' by 100' fixed pier with associated ramp and float was reviewed. While some members deplored the proliferation of piers along the shores of the Bay, most felt there was no valid reason to object to the proposal. Jane Hislop made a motion that the Commission interpose no objections to the proposal; seconded by George Fletcher. Motion carried with one abstention.

Chairman Lamson had placed on the agenda the subject of the Commission's memo to the Planning Board concerning Mr. Howard Patten and landscaping at 32 Nimble Hill Road. A reply has never been received. After discussion, Nancy Cauvet moved that the memo be sent a second time to the Planning Board. Seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried.

Kay Akerley read a faxed letter which had been received from the PDA concerning a meeting held on 14 August 2001 with respect to the Newington Town Forest. The PDA reiterated their offer to work with the town and the town's counsel, Malcolm McNeill, to negotiate and execute an agreement to permit the town to protect and manage the Town Forest, as the PDA explores the possibility of a future transfer of fee title. The PDA indicated they were awaiting receipt of information from Atty. McNeill in order to proceed. Jack O'Reilly said he would contact Atty. McNeill.

Nancy Cauvet said she had obtained an application form from the Rockingham County Conservation District "Achieving Conservation Initiatives in the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed, October 2001." With support from the NH Estuaries Project, the Rockingham County Conservation District is presenting an opportunity for sustained assistance for two Conservation Commissions within the NH Coastal Watershed. Nancy recommended the Commission fill out the form and submit it, with type of project envisioned being open space acquisition. Kay Akerley, Jane Hislop and Dorothy Watson indicated they had spent any number of hours going over the identifying and prioritizing of natural resources with various organizations with the view that the town would eventually be furnished with map overlays. It appears there is much overlapping of endeavors but little in the way of concrete results. Tom Morgan said the new Open Space Committee was "in high gear" and enthusiastically pursuing their assigned task. He too thought there was an overlapping of endeavors in this matter and didn't think much would be gained by sending in another application. In any event, members agreed it would do no harm to send in the application. Jane Hislop made a motion that the application be submitted, seconded by Nancy Cauvet. Motion carried.

On a motion by Jack O'Reilly and seconded by Jane Hislop, it was voted to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Kay Akerley
Vice Chair/Secretary