

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, June 9, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Jane Hislop called the June 9, 2022, meeting at 6:34 PM.

Present: Vice-Chair Derick Willson; Andrew Meigs; Laura Rogers; Jim Weiner; Alternate Member, Jane Kendall; and Town Planner, John Krebs

Absent: Alternate Members, Bill Murray, and Benjamin Higgins

Public Guests: Jessica McNeill, Wilcox and Barton

1) NHDES Wetlands Application(s): Request by **Great Bay Marine, Inc.** for recommendation for Minimal Impact (+/- 250 s.f.) Shoreline Permit for maintenance work on docking structure to replace transition sumps and connecting piping at property located at **61 Beane Lane, Tax Map 6, Lot 5.**

Jessica McNeil from Wilcox and Barton appeared before the Conservation Commission to present their Expedited Minimal Impact Shoreline Permit request to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental services (DES).

Ms. McNeil explained that they were replacing the existing transition sump pump, and would not be doing any trenching for piping because they would be going through the existing conduit. Ms. McNeil stated that there would be minimal impact, and all other work would be done on top of the dock.

Ms. McNeil added that the permit was expedited because of the limited scope of the project, and because DES also used the transient fuel pump to support hazardous waste management boats that were deployed from the marina as well.

Commissioner Andrew Meigs commented that there had been an incident in Albuquerque, New Mexico where a leak had been discovered, and asked how they would know if there was a leak. Ms. McNeil replied that the pumps came with alarms and had already been approved by DES, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Jim Weiner moved to recommend approval for NHDES Wetlands Application(s): Request by Great Bay Marine, Inc. for recommendation for Minimal Impact (+/- 250 s.f.) Shoreline Permit for maintenance work on docking structure to replace transition sumps and connecting piping at property located at 61 Beane Lane, Tax Map 6, Lot 5 with the condition that the applicant provide the Conservation Commission with an explanation of how the system worked. Andrew Meigs seconded the motion, and all were in favor

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2) New Members and Election of Officers

Chair Hislop welcomed returning Commissioner Jim Weiner who had been recently appointed.

Mr. Krebs noted that alternate commissioner Ben Hutchins had only attended meetings a couple of times over the past 2 1/2 years, and suggested that Chair Hislop reach out to the Board of Selectmen to address the question of Mr. Hutchins' standing on the Commission.

Alternate commissioner Jane Kendall asked if there were any bylaws for the Commission. Mr. Krebs replied that the Planning Board, and the zoning board of adjustment had bylaws, but he had never seen any for the conservation Commission.

Chair Hislop commented that alternate commissioner Bill Murray attended sporadically because of his work schedule, so it would be good to have another alternate.

Jane Kendall nominated Jane Hislop as chair. Derick Willson seconded, and all were in favor.

Jane Kendall nominated Derick Willson as vice chair. Andrew Meigs seconded, and all were in favor.

3) 2022 Goals

Commissioner Weiner said he thought that the Commission should put together a list of goals for the next ten years for the capital improvements program as part of the Master Plan done by the Planning Board.

Commissioner Weiner said town owned properties were considered a capital asset, and improvements would also be considered an asset.

Commissioner Weiner said there were gullies and rocks and roots along the paths on Fox Point that could be trip hazards, and he aspired to make recommend CIP improvements for the paths on Fox Point, and removal of invasive species, such as bittersweet that was spreading, and choking many of the trees.

Mr. Krebs asked if the Recreation Committee was involved in the upkeep of the paths on Fox Point as well. Commissioner Weiner replied that Rec Committee member, Brian Haberstroh said that the Rec Committee picked up branches and rocks, and cleared trails in winter with snowmobiles, and utility vehicles; however, he felt that professionals should do clearing first and then volunteers could continue to do clearing. Chair Hislop wondered who would manage those contractors.

Mr. Krebs stated that there were funds in the Fox Point maintenance fund that could be requested from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Krebs added that there should be

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a best practices management plan for Fox Point, and mowing the fields twice a year should be standard.

Vice-Chair Willson pointed out that erosion was also a problem on Fox Point.

Mr. Krebs reminded everyone that there had been a discussion about putting up and educational noticeboard for the Adams homestead for the local school children. Mr. Krebs suggested that it might be worth talking to local companies about donating their services for signs to mark conservation areas.

Management of the Town Forest trees and trails was also discussed, along with trail maps, and addressing the old dump in the Town Forest that should be fenced off.

Commissioner Laura Rogers suggested a list of best management practices for hardy native species that would also include support for pollinators and wildlife.

Commissioner Kendall said she thought the Commission had guidelines that could be provided to applicants. Chair Hislop said they did, but they needed updating.

The Commissioners continued to brainstorm ideas for 2022 goals that included community education on assorted topics, a town plant sale, or plant swap. Chair Hislop commented that a list of native, and non-invasive plants species would be important for such an event.

Other goals included contamination of groundwater, septic system assessments and recommendations, addressing algae bloom on Motts Pond, over salting of roads and stormwater management for the continued protection of wetlands leading to Great Bay, identifying, and preserving critical habitats and wildlife corridors.

Mr. Krebs suggested that the Commission commit to monthly meetings to continue working on these goals.

Minutes: Andrew Meigs moved to approve the May 12, 2022, Minutes. Jim Weiner seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment: *Andrew Meigs moved to adjourn. Jane Hislop seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.*

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 14, 2022

**Respectfully
Submitted by:** Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary