

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 12, 2021

Call to Order: Chair Jane Hislop called the August 12, 2021 meeting at 6:34 PM.

Present: Vice-Chair Derick Willson; Andrew Meigs; Jim Tucker; Alternate Members, Bill Murray, and Jane Kendall; and Town Planner, John Krebs

Absent: Ann Morton; Alternate, Benjamin Higgins

Public Guests: Steve Reiker, Ambit Engineering

1) NHDES Wetlands Permit Review: Minimum Expedited Wetlands Permit for Bombini Trust 1, to relocate an existing footpath to existing dock on property located at 30 Gundalow Landing, Tax Map 22, Lot 3.

Steve Reiker with Ambit Engineering appeared before the Commission on behalf of the property owners. Mr. Reiker said he had presented a permit application to replace the existing dock via a Zoom meeting in January 2021.

Mr. Reiker said that this permit was to remove the existing accessway, and replace it with a better access from their home to the dock that would not be as steep. Mr. Reiker said they had included maps and photos with their the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) application as required.

Mr. Reiker said they would also go before the Planning Board for a Conditional Use Permit.

Mr. Reiker stated that the primary structure was within the 50 feet setback from the highest tidal zone, and 100 feet from tidal waters. Mr. Reiker said the 10 by 16-foot structure would be outside of the primary tidal setback, and there would be a four foot wide landing and rest area.

Mr. Reiker stated that there would be landings between the stairs, and the lengthening the structure would allow a decrease in elevation.

Vice-Chair Willson asked if the soil would be solid enough to support the structure. Mr. Reiker replied that he believed it would be, and added that the Town building inspector would inspect the installation.

Chair Hislop asked what kind of equipment they would use to go down the slope. Mr. Reiker replied that they would use Bobcat type of equipment.

Chair Hislop asked if they had a planting plan, and Mr. Reiker said they would add a note that would specify a conservation seed mix. Alternate Commissioner, Jane Kendall suggested that they consider lowbush blueberry, that worked well to reduce

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erosion. Commissioner Meigs agreed that they should plant something other than grass seed that would wash out at the first rain.

Chair Hislop asked about what they intended to do with the surrounding trees. Mr. Reiker said they were placing the ramp between trees to avoid tree removal.

Vice-Chair Willson asked what type of wood they would use, and Mr. Reiker replied that they would use pressure treated wood. Mr. Reiker added that DES said pressure treated would last 50-75 year, but he doubted that it would last that long. Vice-Chair Willson said he would expect them to repair the structure as needed.

Jim Tucker moved to recommend approval of the Minimum Expedited Wetlands Permit for Bombini Trust 1, to relocate an existing footpath to existing dock on property located at 30 Gundalow Landing, Tax Map 22, Lot 3 with the condition that groundcover seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Commissioner Meigs asked if there were any ways of reviewing in a year to be sure planting occurred.

Chair Hislop agreed, and suggested that they amend the motion to inspect the plantings after one year.

Commissioner Meigs asked when the construction would occur, and Mr. Reiker replied that the Conditional Use Permit would only be good for a year, but the wetlands permit would be good for five years.

Andrew Meigs amended the motion that the building inspector would inspect the plantings one year following the completion of the project to be sure the vegetation was planted and healthy. Jim Tucker seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vice-Chair Willson asked how the building inspector would be informed to follow up. way to get to building insp. Commissioner Kendall responded that the Town administrative assistant usually gave the building inspector a copy of the Minutes, and Town Planner, John Krebs would read the motion in the Minutes, and follow through with the building inspector and the Planning Board.

2) Other Business

Mr. John Krebs said he would give a video on the Town Forest to Commissioner Tucker who was the representative to the Town Forest Committee.

Chair Hislop informed the Commission that DES had done a site walk of the Shackford lot with selective invites that she had attended with Planning Board Vice-Chair Erika Mantz, Planning Board members, Russ Cooke and Chris Cross in attendance, along with Town counsel, that advised them not to have any discussion.

Commissioner Meigs asked if any decision had been made regarding the culvert for the wetlands stream crossing. Alternate Commissioner Kendall said the Planning Board

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held a meeting after the site walk, and because the Planning Board Chair had objected to the aluminum arch crossing that had been proposed initially, the investors asked if they would accept a box culvert instead. Commissioner Kendal said the Chair informed the applicant that the Planning Board could not approve of the crossing without approval from DES so the issue was still in limbo.

Vice-Chair Willson said he was surprised that Town wetlands consultant, Mark West of West Environmental had commented that Chair Hislop's concerns with road salt runoff into the stream would not be that much of an issue because the stream led to brackish water. Chair Hislop said she had suggested to the Board of Selectmen before that they go to low salt. Chair Hislop said there was a limited time to apply salt alternatives like magnesium or potassium chloride, and they also left a coating on windshields. Vice-Chair Willson commented that it might be cost effective for the Town to obtain equipment that would control the release of salt better, and Chair Hislop agreed.

Chair Hislop noted that it was important that the Town have the property owners pay into the Conservation Fund after the property was sold, subdivided, and taken out of Current Use per State Legislation.

The Commission discussed DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) funding, and the difficulty with obtaining mitigation funds for Newington, so there was a need to request direct payment as was the case of the Eversource's Seacoast Transmission Expansion Project.

Chair Hislop said DES had made recommendations to use mitigations funds toward erosion control on Fox Point, but the Board of Selectmen did not support the plan.

Chair Hislop went on to discuss opportunities for using the funds for culvert replacement in town.

Minutes: Jim Tucker moved to approve the June 10, 2021 Minutes with corrections as discussed. Derick Willson seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment: *Andrew Meigs moved to adjourn. Jane Hislop seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.*

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021

Respectfully
Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary

