

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2013

Call to Order: Chair, Jane Hislop called the August 8, 2013 meeting at 6:35 PM.

Present: Chair, Jane Hislop; Nancy Cauvet; Julia Fijas; Tonia Pulkowski; and Jim Weiner

1) Old Business

A) Fox Point Easement

The commissioners reviewed the overall objectives of creating a conservation easement to protect Fox Point from future sale, and the best tact to take to set up the easement. A discussion of Attorney F.X. Bruton's legal concerns were discussed, and questions arose as to whether it would be necessary to create a non-profit overseer to avoid a merger risk, or not and how that could best be done. Commissioner Jim Weiner said Justin Richardson had suggested naming the Newington School District as the non-profit beneficiary instead of creating another non-profit "friends of Fox Point" entity. In response to whether the school might one day close the entire student population be bused to another town like Greenland or Portsmouth, it was concluded that there would still be a Newington School District for the students regardless of whether they went to Newington Public or were tuitioned elsewhere.

The commissioners also reviewed the option of creating a "friends of Fox Point" group, and Commissioner Nancy Cauvet said the group would require an odd number of representatives from several Town boards like the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, possibly the Historic District Committee, the Recreation Committee, and any other boards, as well as resident membership.

Julie Fijas asked why the Town couldn't make Fox Point a protected park the way the City of Chicago did along lake frontage, and other communities. Chair Jane Hislop said many parks have been closed due to lack of funding, and Newington is too small without sufficient infrastructure and personnel to manage the Point as a park. She said she also thought an easement would protect the point from being sold.

Further discussion ensued regarding a management plan that would be a separate document from the easement so that the easement document would cover the legal essentials for perpetuity, but the management plan could be adjusted slightly as needed. Commissioner Weiner said the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission would need to agree on the plan, and others could have input, but no one else could have veto power over the agreed upon plan. Julie Fijas said she Googled management plans and found a multitude of types from conservation and forestry to historic:

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Correspondence:

Chair Hislop said she received an email from the Langdon Library Trustees that four additional trees were taken down prior to their expansion excavation at the recommendation of the arborist because they were in poor health due to weevil damage, and would be a threat to the building.

Chair Hislop said they also received an inquiry on monitoring from the Southeast Land Trust that holds stewardship on a parcel along Trickey's Cove to see if any changes have occurred. Chair Hislop said she would check with Town Planner, Tom Morgan for a current conditions report.

Invoices:

Chair Hislop said she spoke with Town Administrator, Martha Roy who said she had already received a line item request for reimbursement to Peggy Lamson for the beautification plantings for the Town's 1713 Celebration, but she was not sure how much it came to.

Jane Hislop moved to approve payment to Attorney F.X. Bruton for legal fees in the amount of \$855. Jim Weiner seconded, and all were in favor.

Minutes:

Jim Weiner moved to approve the Minutes for the July 18, 2013 meeting. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment: ***Jim Weiner*** motioned to adjourn, and Jane Hislop seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2013

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary