

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2013

- Call to Order:** Chair, Jane Hislop called the May 9, 2013 meeting at 6:30 PM.
- Present:** Chair, Jane Hislop; Nancy Cauvet; Tonia Pulkowski; Jim Weiner; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner
- Public Guests:** Ken Anderson, President, Riverside&Pickering Marine Contractors; John Arnold, Attorney; John Bernier, President, Bernier Contracting; Bruce Gilday, Land Consultant; Peter Landry, Landry Surveying; Edward Mineaowicz, PSNH Environmental Coordinator; Jim Mayo, PSNH Civil Engineering Supervisor; Gregg Mikolaities, PE with Tighe & Bond; Ted Reed, Sprague Energy; Chris Shepard, PE with Appledore marine Engineering; Julia Fijas

1) New Business:

A) Proposal by **Riverside Pickering Marine** to construct a pier and laydown area adjacent to Little Bay Lobster, Tax Map 20, Lots 1 & 5A

Ken Anderson with Riverside&Pickering came before the Commission with their proposal to put a string of floats to access their operation bulkhead prior to bringing their application to the Planning Board. Anderson said their business has grown from 5 to 30 employees, and the purpose of the pier is to gain access to barges for offloading. Commissioner, Jim Weiner asked if they would be fueling at the facility, and Mr. Anderson said they had no plans to do so at this time, but may have gas cans, though they could expand fueling in the future following Coast Guard regulations for fueling from the pier.

Commissioner, Nancy Cauvet asked if the pier would be a permeable surface, and was told it is currently gravel.

Gregg Mikolaities with Tighe and Bond said they met with DES. The process will probably take six months.

B) Proposal by **Wilcox Industries** to expand their facility at 25 Piscataqua Drive, Tax Map 27, Lot 22

General Contractor, John Bernier, Surveyor Peter Landry, and Land Consultant Bruce Gilday came before the Commission on behalf of Wilcox Industries with their preliminary proposal to expand their underground firing range, and additional parking above which would impact a nearby wetland pocket. Mr. Landry said the only abutter is PSNH, and believes they would be onboard with the project. Landry added that Wilcox has offered to donate land to the Town, along with PSNH for the purpose of extending Shattuck Way to connect with Gosling Road, and the road construction would impact that same wetland which would need to be built up, and the existing culvert replaced.

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2013

Jim Weiner asked Mr. Bernier if Wilcox had an alternative plan if their proposal didn't go through, and Mr. Bernier said they do not. Weiner asked Tom Morgan if other companies in the area had been given similar relief, and Morgan said many had because businesses are growing, and Westinghouse is already utilizing satellite facilities in Pease, and without space to expand businesses will go elsewhere. Jim Weiner asked Tom Morgan if the Town was really going to extend Shattuck Road, and Morgan said yes, the purpose being to get the commercial and industrial trucks off Woodbury Ave. Morgan said PSNH pledged \$250,000 to offset the increased traffic impact of trafficking woodchips to the Schiller plant, and Wilcox also offered to contribute to the road expansion project.

Bruce Gilday said the wetland area has no standing water or vernal pools, some native species, and numerous invasive species like Knotweed, Purple Loosestrife, Rosa Multiflora, and Russian Olive. Town resident, Julia Fijas who joined the discussion asked how deep the water table is in the wetlands area, and Bruce Gilday said it is about 6 feet down, and all dried up. Nancy Cauvet asked if Town environmental consultant, Mark West had inspected the area, and Town Planner, Tom Morgan said he had not, but the Planning Board asked West to check with DES, and DES said it was all permissible impact. Cauvet said it would still be necessary to have a filtration plan for the parking lot runoff. Peter Landry said there currently are level spreaders, an oil separator, and a swale, and they will be part of the new plan.

Commission Chair, Jane Hislop said she didn't see that there would be any problem getting approval from DES considering that past industry has received approval, and that Shattuck Way will be extending through the area.

2) Dredge/Fill Permit Applications

A) Sprague Energy – Rock Anchor replacement at the River Rod terminal.

Ted Reed with Sprague Energy, and Chris Shepard with Appledore Marine Engineering said they were going to file an extension to their wetlands permit to repairs and replacement of their current loading docks, but because they're not putting in the anchors in the same spot, they had to file a new permit for 20 square feet of impact. Julia Fijas asked what happens to the old anchors, and Chris Shepard said they cut them off. Julia asked what could go wrong, and Shepard said equipment failure could happen.

Nancy Cauvet moved to recommend approval to DES of Sprague Energy's rock anchor replacement at their River Road terminal. Jim Weiner seconded, and all were in favor.

B) Public Service Company of NH

Environmental Coordinator, Edward Mineowicz, and Civil Engineering Consultant, Jim Mayo came before the Commission for recommendation for their wetlands application to relocate utility poles to accommodate the Spaulding Turnpike Expansion project. Ed Mineowicz explained that they would access the wetlands using

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2013

14-foot wide swamp mats laid out to 550 lineal feet designed for track and wheeled vehicles to spread the load. Nancy Cauvet asked what the swamp mats are made of and was told they will use timber, and DES requires that they be cleaned after use to prevent the transfer of invasive species. Julia Fijas asked how the poles are treated, and Jim Mayo said they use non-soluble gas based pressure board.

Julie Fijas asked if they could do any kind of wetlands impact mitigation. Nancy Cauvet asked if PSNH might consider putting up osprey nesting poles, and Ed Mineowicz said they could get in touch with community relations.

Chair, Jane Hislop asked what their schedule is, and Jim Mayo said they thought they would've been included in the State's permits, but they weren't so they are trying to catch up, and hope to get the project done before frost.

Jim Weiner moved to recommend approval of PSNH's wetlands application to install four poles on Tax Map 12, 18, and 19. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all were in favor.

3) Other Business

Tom Morgan said one of the Selectmen questioned whether the Town should try to acquire a portion of the Beane Property that is now in probate in order to preserve the historic property and green area around near the Town Hall. Nancy Cauvet asked what would be done with the house, and Morgan said the house is historic and could be sold off, or they could just keep the land.

Nancy Cauvet raised a discussion of extending the duration of hunting at GBNWR each fall to keep the local deer herds under control. Jane Hislop said the deer used to be hunted regularly on Pease Air Force Base before it closed, but have since gone unchecked at the refuge, and there are few hunting areas open in the residential areas of Town. Tom Morgan said Grant Taylor with U.S. Fish and Wildlife at Parker Road Refuge is in charge of GBNWR, and would be the person to contact.

Nancy Cauvet moved to contact Grant Taylor with U.S. Fish and Wildlife at Parker River to extend the hunting season at Great Bay Wildlife Refuge. Jane Hislop seconded, and all were in favor.

Tom Morgan said he recently met the architect and engineer for the Langdon Library and asked about their landscaping plan, and was told none had been put into the budget. Morgan suggested it might be a good opportunity to look into planting habitat for the New England Cottontail behind the Library.

Nancy Cauvet suggested the Commission revisit working on the conservation easement for Fox Point. Jim Weiner said he talked to Tom Morgan earlier in the week to get some background on the subject. Tom Morgan said the Commission would need to work on drafting the easement, hire and meet with an attorney for three or four

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2013

sessions, all of which could take three to six months before presenting it to the Board of Selectmen for a warrant article.

Jim Weiner moved to have Tom Morgan contact Attorney F.X. Bruton to work on the Fox Point conservation easement document. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all were in favor.

A discussion of finding new commissioners was discussed since the resignation of George Fletcher, Nell Ann Hiatt, Marge Hislop, Peggy Lamson and Justin Richardson. Newly sworn in Tonia Pulkowski asked why there had been such a turn over in the Commission, and was told that some members had served several terms, while others were not able to spare the time. Julia Fijas was advised to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen for appointment, and then get sworn in. Jane Kendall was asked if she would consider serving as an alternate member, and she said she would.

Nancy Cauvet moved to recommend that Jane Kendall be appointed as an alternate member of the Commission. Jane Hislop seconded, and all were in favor.

Jane Hislop moved to send thank you's to the previous commissioners for their years of dedication and service. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all were in favor.

Minutes: ***Nancy Cauvet moved to approve the Minutes from March 14, 2013. Jim Weiner seconded, and all were in favor.***

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8.55 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 13, 2013

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