

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, July 28, 2011

Call to Order: Co-Chairs, Justin Richardson and Jane Hislop called the July 28, 2011 meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Present: Justin Richardson, Co-Chair Person; Jane Hislop, Co-Chair; Nancy Cauvet; Dorene Stern; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner

Absent: George Fletcher; Nell Ann Hiatt and Margaret Lamson;

Public Guests: Jane and Mike Mazeau

1) Conservation Easement Proposal by Jane and Mike Mazeau, 124 Fox Point Road
Property owners, Jane and Mike Mazeau came before the Commission to explore the possibility of putting their property into a conservation easement before selling development rights, of which 12 plus acres are in current use with a house lot on 3-1/2 acres.

Commissioner Dorene Stern asked about water resources on the property, and Mike Mazeau said they discovered a geothermal system of 2000 gallons per minute when they drilled their well, and looked into development with the City of Portsmouth but it didn't work out. Ms. Stern then asked if it is within town ordinance rules for two lots to share a right of way. Town Planner, Tom Morgan said there has been an ongoing debate within the Planning Board. Ms. Stern also asked about public access of property that the Town would be purchasing for conservation easement. Co-chair, Justin Richardson said it would depend on value assessment and intended use. Co-chair, Jane Hislop inquired if it would be possible to use the back entrance for public access if determined if desirable.

Co-chair, Justin Richardson asked the Mazeaus to clarify the designated living/activity area and their lot line adjustment intentions for future subdivision if the property were sold to avoid future confusion, especially regarding the right-of-way driveway. Mr. Richardson asked Mr. Mazeau to provide test pit data.

Mr. Morgan asked the Mazeaus if they would continue living on the property after putting it into a conservation easement, and they said they would. Morgan suggested they put together a list of activities that they would want permitted and excluded before drawing up the easement details.

Mr. Richardson said the Conservation Commission typically has Environmental Consultant, Mark West explore and assess properties for conservation easement. Mr. Mazeau said he would be glad to walk the property with Mr. West. Jane Hislop said the Conservation Commission could meet again after Mark West assessed the property.

Jane Hislop motioned to hire Environmental Consultant, Mark West to evaluate Jane and Mike Mazeau's property on 124 Fox Point Road per their proposal for environmental conservation. Commissioner, Nancy Cauvet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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2) Eelgrass Mitigation Proposal related to “Simplex Reach” Dredging in the Piscataqua River

The Commission was presented with a copy of UNH Professor Fred Short’s preliminary proposal for mitigation to re-establish eelgrass at test locations in Broad Cove, Little Bay, Newington which was also given to DES. Co-Chair Richardson said Doctor Short’s proposal would also lay down research groundwork for the future. Richardson suggested that Tom Morgan discuss the proposal with the Pease Development Association since no mitigation was listed in the current dredging application.

Co-Chair Justin Richardson moved to have Town Planner, Tom Morgan present a recommendation for Professor Fred Short’s mitigation proposal to the PDA, and invite them to comment at the next NCC meeting scheduled on Thursday, August 11, 2011. Co-Chair Jane Hislop seconded and all were in favor.

3) Landscaping

Discussion ensued regarding the loss of one of the Red “Swamp” Maples that died from last summer’s Newington Public School Landscaping project. Although LJH Landscaping who did the planting, it was determined that Robbie Woodburn Landscape Design was responsible for providing their professional recommendation for which trees were best suited for which location, but they were not willing to reimburse the Town for the loss.

Additional discussion of the NPS Landscaping project covered watering and Commissioners agreed that the watering maintenance by Jane Kendall and her son, Paul Fitzgerald that they approved of should include weeding. Commissioner, Nancy Cauvet said she would like to see a budget for regular town landscape maintenance of at least eight hours a week for five months from June through October, which would include weeding and watering.

Co-Chair, Jane Hislop said the Board of Selectmen have asked the Conservation Commission for recommendations for planting in the parking lot island in front of the newly built Town shed. Discussion ensued regarding merits and pitfalls of planting in an area that will be plowed and exposed to road salt in the winter. Although wildflowers were a consideration, but were dismissed as they only do well for the first couple of years and then tend to die out. Milkweed and Joe Pye Weed were also suggested, but Nancy Cauvet said they are difficult to care for, and recommended native grasses, which would also be more durable. Co-Chair Richardson asked Nancy to put together a list of species recommendations for the Board of Selectmen.

4) Budget – Mid-Year Review

After a brief review and discussion of the budget, commissioners confirmed that they could transfer funds from Beautification, Legal or Secretarial line items as necessary so long as they were within the bottom line.

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Invoices:

After a review of the budget, Co-Chair Justin Richardson asked Town Planner, Tom Morgan to bring Attorneys Baldwin and Callen's 6/30/11 Invoice of \$701.28 for legal services related to the PDA case to Town Administrative Assistant, Bea Marconi for the Board of Selectmen to pay from their budget as agreed, so that the funds for Legal expenses in the Conservation Commission would not go over budget.

Nancy Cauvet moved to pay the 7/15/11 Bruxton and Berube invoice of \$967.50 for legal services regarding the conservation easement of David Hislop's property out of Conservation funds. Abutters, Justin Richardson and Jane Hislop abstained. Dorene Stern seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. Justin Richardson noted that Commissioners Peggy Lamson and George Fletcher would need to be called in to the office to complete signatures required on the requisition.

Minutes: Justin Richardson moved to accept the Minutes of July 14, 2011. Nancy Cauvet seconded and all approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2011

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary