

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, January 14, 2010

Call to Order: Justin Richardson, Chair Person called the January 14, 2010 meeting at 6:35 PM

Present: Justin Richardson, Chair Person; Margarethe Lamson, Vice Chair; Nancy Cauvet; George Fletcher, Jane Hislop; and Thomas Morgan from Newington Planning Board

Not Present: Dorene Stern and Dorothy Watson

Public Guests: **GSM Realty Trust, Gosling Road Property** Inspection by Mark West Environmental;
KWA, LLC, Shattuck Way, Landscaping Proposal by Ambit Engineering;
Pickering Marine & Douglas Ross, Gundalow Landing Property Dredge & Fill Application

1. GSM Realty Trust, Gosling Road Property Review by Mark West Environmental

Mark West presented a review of his inspection of the Granite State Mineral property on Gosling Road. Mr. West raised questions about the plan to dig and tear down the 20 foot burm not being referred to as impact with plans for mitigation, with no square footage info supplied, noting mitigation is required for anything over 10,000 in Chap 800 rules. Mr.. West also noted that originally there had been three copies of the endangered species list submitted which are now missing from the report.

He noted the emphasis on terracing near RRT, and the proposal to loam and seed, but no proposal of planting to discourage invasive species growth. West recommend a buffer planting of young pine as a wetlands barrier. He also noted that the abandoned well looks like good wetland potential, but not part of current plan. He also suggested that the oil separation culvert needs wetlands restoration.

Chair, Justin Richardson said GSM's application statement says they're "improving water quality" but not stating existing problems or solutions, which may be significant since it was a former oil tank storage farm. He wonders how a detention basin will solve anything, and would like to see more details on the detention basin. Mr. Richardson said this might be a good opportunity to make specific requirements for wetland restoration/mitigation, as well as seizing the opportunity to state objections before future development prevents further improvements.

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Mark West also noted that "GSM could get more credit for better mitigation and also advises further discussion regarding alteration of terrain since Lori Summers said the state isn't waiving off mitigation requirements. Mr. West said he is still waiting to hear what Dori Wiggins at NHDES says, and will follow up his review with a letter to Ridge Mocker.

2. Douglas Ross, Gundalow Landing Property Dredge & Fill Application by Pickering Marine.

Zachary Taylor of Pickering Marine provided photos and drawings to show barge and crane construction of dock, ramp and float proposal off Ross property filed with DES Wetlands Division. Construction would consist of 6'x53' pier with a 3'x45' ramp built mostly with yellow pine. Mr. Taylor explained that design, size, and placement had been determined as best solution for stability and to allow keel of boat to be in water during low tide and to pin to ledge and rocks since there's no solid place to sink pilings.

Studies on impact of construction to National Heritage species including bald eagle and osprey were determined to be of no threat. Chair Justin Richardson requested the application include flagging of mudflats with silt fence for backhoes..

Questions regarding docks adjudicating public's right to walk along shore were also addressed, noting the virtually impassable mudflats and existing docks on either side of the Ross property already. Discussion of the difficulty obtaining moorings at the town dock was also mentioned as another reason many homeowners have built their own. Mr. Taylor said the floats and ramps would be towed by barge and stored by subcontractors at Pepperell Cove during the off-season.

Nancy Cauvet moved that the commission recommend approval of the dredge and fill application. Jane Hislop seconded, and the motion passed, while Chair Richardson abstained.

3. KWA, LLC, Shattuck Way, Landscaping Proposal by Ambit Engineering

Jacqueline Noonan (sp?) from Terrance Parker Landscaping presented their proposal of plantings, including Thuja (Arborvitae) Green Giant which grow denser and are more resistant to deer browsing than other varieties; male Gingko Biloba trees, which don't drop sulphur smelling fruit, are drought tolerant and considered the number one choice to reduce air pollution; a variety of Red Maple which are known to be more resistant to winter rodent girdling than sugar maples; and Shasta Viburnum shrubs for a hedge along the highway which are known to be very tough and salt runoff tolerant, flower and fruit attracting bees and birds.

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John Chagnon from Ambit Engineering also noted there would be pristine soil and wetland seed mix around the filter ponds, which would help, keep out invasive species.

Chairman, Justin Richardson motioned that the commission recommend the planning board's approval of the landscaping proposal contingent upon maintenance and monitoring the removal of invasive species. Jane Hislop seconded and all members present voted their approval. Mr. Chagnon requested the motion be emailed to jrc@ambitengineering.com

4. Annual Report

Chairman, Justin Richardson announced that copies of reports for the 2009 Annual Report were due. Items reported this year were: Storm Regulations complete, and fewer wetlands applications. After including a summary of the planting work by Co-Chair Peggy Lamson and Dorene Stern in front of Town Hall, the Airport Road Kiosk, the Little Bay Road island, and the Post Road island, the NCC report would be ready to ratify.

5. Invoices

Jane Hislop motioned to pay West Environmental \$459.49 for inspection of Oak Hill Environmental Services proposal for GSM Property on Gosling Road. Justin Richardson seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Justin Richardson motioned to pay \$1,372.56 to Baldwin & Cullen Law for legal representation regarding Newington Conservation Commission's designation of prime wetlands on PDA property. Nancy Cauvet seconded. Peggy Lamson recused herself and all other members voted in favor.

6. Approval of Minutes

Jane Hislop motioned to approved December 10, 2009 NCC Meeting Minutes pending amendments. Peggy Lamson seconded and all motion passed with all members approving

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at Town Hall

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