

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, June 10, 2010

- Call to Order:** Justin Richardson, Chair Person called the June 10, 2010 meeting at 6:35 PM. Meeting posted for 6:30 PM
- Present:** Justin Richardson, Chair Person; Nancy Cauvet; George Fletcher; and Thomas Morgan from Newington Planning Board
- Absent:** Margaret Lamson, Vice Chair; Jane Hislop; Dorene Stern, Dorothy Watson
- Guests:** Robbie Woodburn, Landscaper;
Nell Ann Hiatt, seeking Newington Conservation Commission seeking membership appointment

1. Conservation Commission Member Appointment

Nell Ann Hiatt, seeking membership to the Newington Conservation Commission (NCC) was welcomed and advised to make arrangements with one of the Newington Town Selectman to appoint and then take an oath with the clerk to serve on the commission to make her membership official.

2. Newington Public School Landscape Restoration

Landscaper, Robbie Woodburn presented an amended plan for the restoration of the landscape of the hill between the Newington Public School (NPS) and the back of the Newington Fire Station (NFS), to include a greater variety of species that would suitable for the terrain, as well as disease and salt tolerant. A new plan with the list of tree and bush species was listed, and discussed. Nancy Cauvert asked Ms. Woodburn to be sure the viburnum chosen wouldn't be susceptible to the newest blights. Ms. Woodburn said she would be sure to look into it as new blights are discovered.

Discussion ensued regarding the species of trees suggested for the tallest trees nearest to the firehouse pavement at the back of the landscape. NCC members had previously objected to the same arborvitae species that have been so commonly planted around town. Having reviewed all the options, pros and cons of various species, all members present agreed to accept Ms. Woodburn's recommendation to plant Western Red Cedars that are known to be salt & moisture tolerant, hardy with few problems, quick growing to mass well, exhibiting droopier, less formal foliage, and darker color to provide contrast to the rest of the plantings.

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NCC Chair, Justin Richardson said he would check with the Newington Fire Chief regarding any foreseen problems with the landscaping plan and the proposed future Fire Station additions.

Further discussion continued on the possibility of additional plantings of rows of trees along the school driveway nearest the playing fields. It was suggested that staggered planting of more than one species, such as ash, red maples (which are more salt tolerant than sugar maples), and the ruby red horse chestnut approximately 70 feet apart be considered. Ms. Woodburn also recommended that the caliper of the newly planted trees be 3" (no less than 2-2&1/2) for adaptability and sturdiness (with larger tree growth being less reliable due to the shock of readjustment).

Robbie Woodburn said she would provide an updated landscape plan to the NCC by the end of the week in time for the Newington School Supporters (NSS) to review at their next meeting (usually the fourth Tuesday of the month), before the Newington Board of Selectmen (NBS) signs off on the plan at their next meeting scheduled on Monday, June 28, 2010.

Prior to leaving for the evening, Commission members walked Ms. Woodburn out of the building to look at the flowerbed and wall that had been built around the birch tree near the parking lot entrance of the Newington Town Hall building. Ms. Woodburn agreed with members that trees planted level to the ground should be left that way, and building up soils and mulches around their trunks adversely affects their health and will eventually kill the tree.

3. Invoices

Although there was some confusion on the receipt of another duplicate invoice received, no new invoices for NCC were received for payment this month.

4. Correspondence

Chair, Justin Richardson noted that an Expedited Minimum Impact Permit has been submitted the Sprague, Corporation for a tidal drainage pool (?). Richardson questioned what the gate to the tidal drainage pool is designed to do when it is opened or closed, noting that some of the tanks there hold heated animal fats, which are pumped into tankers for transport to manufacturers overseas.

The Commission is therefore requesting a visit from a Sprague, Corp. representative to explain the purpose of the drainage pool.

5. Approval of May 20, 2010 Minutes

George Fletcher motioned to accept May 20, 2010 Minutes with amended exceptions as discussed. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all members were in favor.

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6. Other Business

NCC Member Nancy Cauvet announced that there would be a Coastal Management Meeting on Tuesday, June 15th at 7 p.m. at the Town of Sheffield. She also announced that there is a new notification out that another aquatic

invasive species, Pepperweed has been reported as being seen in Hampton and Rye and there will be discussion as to how to prevent further spread.

Town Planner, Tom Morgan announced that there would also be a meeting of the Southeast Watershed Alliance meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Newington Town Hall. Tom said he would not be able to attend so Jane Kendall volunteered to attend as a Newington town representative.

Tom Morgan also reported that a City of Portsmouth citizen complained about the unsightliness of the tree and brush cutting around the National Tire and Battery (NTB) sign, as well as concern that the Newington Conservation Commission was neglectful in approving their permit for alteration. Chair, Justin Richardson pointed out that the wetland area is as it was prior to building and the trees and bushes removed were those that had grown in later. It was also pointed out that a representative from Labrie Associates would be getting back in touch with us regarding further landscaping of the area.

Chair, Justin Richardson reported that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is proposing that Rockingham County Conservation hold the conservation easement obtained from their wetlands mitigations instead of the Newington Conservation Commission due to possible conflicts with Pease Development Association (PDA). Mr. Richardson said that the NCC might also consider approaching the Fish and Wildlife Service to request that the U.S. Federal Government hold the conservation easement instead.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2010 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall

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