

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING OF NEWINGTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION HELD ON 26 JUNE 2003

Present were Margaret Lamson, Jane Hislop, Barbara McDonald, George Fletcher, Nancy Cauvet, Kay Akerley, and Town Planner Tom Morgan.

The purpose of the workshop was to meet with Mark West of West Environmental for an update on the wetlands inventory project.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Barbara McDonald made a motion that the minutes of the 12 June 2003 minutes be accepted; seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried.

The Chairman advised members that word had been received from Tracy Degan of RCCD that the Frink FFP has been approved for full funding.

Mark West handed out copies of the state study concerning wetland related requirements for coastal municipalities dtd August 2002. He said Newington was the first town to see this study. He proceeded to walk members through the Table of Contents, briefly commenting on how each might be approached by the town.

There was discussion of wetland definition, buffers, setbacks, etc. It was decided that the subject of mitigation be left for a later date. It was agreed that the new ordinance should use the state's definition for wetlands. It was also agreed that some of areas, such as septic systems, be left for separate recommendations by the Planning Board.

Tom Morgan suggested that it would be desirable for Mark to draft an ordinance that he, Mark, would feel he could defend in court were he to be called as an expert witness in any lawsuit the town might face as a result of the new ordinance. Members unanimously agreed. Mark said he would be willing to do this. The question of paying for this would appear to be no problem, as the new ordinance is part of the updating of the town Master Plan.

Time being of the essence in order to bring this project to fruition in time for presentation to voters at next town meeting, Mark agreed to have the draft ordinance completed by July 17th. A workshop will be scheduled for that date.

Mark passed out copies of some of the photos prepared for the wetlands inventory. Members agreed they were most impressive and will be very valuable tools in planning for the town's future approach to development.

The Chairman asked Tom Morgan to give an update on the progress of Senate Bill 70. He said the House and the Senate had passed different versions of the bill, so it had to go to conference. Senator Cohen had called to see what he could do to help and he was asked and agreed to present an amendment prohibiting any dumping of wastewater discharge into the Piscataqua River. It is not known what will now transpire.

Jane Hislop made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by George Fletcher. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Kay Akerley
Secretary/Vice Chair