

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 8, 2010

Call to Order: Justin Richardson, Chair Person called the July 8, 2010 meeting at 6:40 PM. Meeting posted for 6:30 PM

Present: Justin Richardson, Chair Person; Margaret Lamson, Vice Chair; Jane Hislop; Dorene Stern, and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner

Absent: Nancy Cauvet; George Fletcher; and Nell Ann Hiatt

Guests: Mick Sheffield, Labrie Associates

1. Presentation by Labrie Associates regarding **National Tire & Battery Landscape Plan** within wetlands buffer on Woodbury Avenue.

Landscaper, Mick Sheffield with Labrie Associates presented wetlands buffer landscaping plan around National Tire & Battery (NTB) sign that would include groups of three low growing wetlands species and perennials, as well as a conservation mix lawn seeding which would stand up to salt runoff on slope to avoid erosion. Mr. Sheffield said that all invasive species had been removed or cut back. Chair, Justin Richardson expressed concern with lawn fertilizer use near wetlands, which could run off under Woodbury Ave and into Paul's brook. Mr. Sheffield then suggested a wildflower mix with sheep laurel and low growing nurse grasses that would only require low nitrogen fertilizing in the fall and spring, and would only require mowing once in the fall to reseed.

Vice Chair, Peg Lamson asked if the plan could also extend planting between the National Tire and Battery site and the International House of Pancakes (IHOP), which Mr. Sheffield said he would propose to NTB.

Chair, Justin Richardson motioned to approve the landscaping plan subject to the condition that no regarding be done within the wetlands buffer be done beyond removing debris, that loam be added and a wildflower mix with a low nitrogen fertilizer of 20% or less be used not more than two times per year, the plan would include the suggested planting area of the east border between National Tire and Battery and the International House of Pancakes, and that a maintenance plan be submitted to Town Planner, Tom Morgan for approval. Vice-chair, Peggy Lamson seconded the motion. All board members presented voted in favor with no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 8, 2010

2. NH Department of Environmental Services proposal to use **Town-owned Land on Fox Point for Oil Spill Response Activities** staging area

Discussion ensued regarding a proposal at the last Newington Board of Selectmen's meeting by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to build a two bay garage for containment booms on Fox Point for an oil spill emergency response deployment area with anchor posts set in the bottom of the bay to secure curtains. At this time, there is already a boom house located at Sprague.

Although the need for an emergency plan was acknowledged, and other sites appear more difficult due to access, low tides & currents, the board noted that the current recommendation for placement of curtains would not be sufficient in containing a major oil spill.

Justin Richardson suggested the Duncan Mellour with Waterfront engineers (who redesigned the Maplewood Bridge over the mill pond) might have some thoughts as to how the NH Department of Transportation might coordinate their bridge expansion project with an oil spill containment plan.

Jane Hislop motioned that the Newington Conservation Commission recommend that the Newington Board of Selectmen seek out a consultant that would consider other alternatives. Peggy Lamson seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor unanimously.

An additional brief discussion on the condition of the birch tree near the front entrance of the Newington Town Hall confirmed that the tree was beginning to show signs of die off in the leaves on one side, and further removal of the top mulch should be done, as well as consulting an arborist. Mr. Sheffield recommended the Northeast Shade Tree Company as his preference.

3. Updates regarding **Replacement of Trees and Landscaping Newington Public School**

Chair, Justin Richardson went over the discussions at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting for approval to proceed with obtaining bids for the replacement of trees and landscaping of the Newington Public School grounds. Questions had been raised as to the original intent for the Clean Air Quality funds. Town Planner, Tom Morgan clarified that at the time the fund was set up sixteen years ago, it was innovative fund raising from corporations, some of which funded the bike bridge in Portsmouth, but was not limited to bike paths, and although a bike path *conception* has been in the town plan for 20 years, it would entail a great deal of planning with an engineer which has not been developed as yet (as a side note, it was suggested that a bike path falling under the "Safe Route to School" program might be discussed in association with the Department of Transportation). At this point, the Conservation Commission has been the first to come up with a recommendation for use of the fund here in

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 8, 2010

Newington, and all members agreed that there is little doubt that the benefit of planting of trees and shrubs would qualify as beneficial to improving air quality by removing carbon dioxide and adding oxygen to the air. Chair Richardson then suggested that if necessary, the Conservation Commission would offer to pay half of the costs of the plantings so long as they could secure the other half from the Clean Air Fund.

Discussion then ensued on the particulars of the most recent landscaping plan proposal by Woodburn Landscape Architectural Company, with recommendations for further amendments to the plan:

1. Lily of the Valley. The Commission voted to request that the quantity of (175) be reduced by "half or more" to reduce cost.
2. Landscape Plan Notes:
 - Font size needs to be increased to make this legible.
 - Note 7 can be eliminated as no permits are required for the project.
 - Note 16 can be eliminated as there are no lawn areas to be moved by the contractor.
 - Note 11. Add that owner is responsible for watering

It was specifically suggested that the Newington School Supporters set up soaker hoses connecting to the nearest source and an automatic timer set.

3. Invoices

Jane Hislop motioned to approve payment of Baldwin & Cullen's invoice of \$1,230 for legal services regarding the PDA case. Peggy Lamson recused herself. Dorene Stern seconded and all approved.

Jane Hislop motioned to reimburse Peggy Lamson in the amount of \$78 for the cost of planting materials for the Newington Town Hall and Police Station in June. Dorene Stern seconded and all approved.

Dorene Stern excused herself from the remainder of the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

4. Correspondence

Chair, Justin Richardson discussed a letter received from Great Bay Marine regarding modification of sediment maintenance and dredging off the boat ramp.

Adjournment: Because there were not enough members remaining to meet a quorum, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall

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