

NEWINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES

July 21, 2009 Old Town Hall

Present: Justin Richardson, Chair; Margaret Lamson, Vice Chair; Members: Jane Hislop; Dorene Stern; and Nancy Cauvet. Guests: Cliff Abbott, member of the Historic District Commission (and Planning Board).

The meeting commenced at 6:29 PM.

The Commission members reviewed the survey prepared by David Hislop and options for locating the Newington Town Forest sign. A letter from Historic District Commission (HDC) Chair Gail Pare was reviewed stating that the HDC did not want the signs commissioned by the Town to be located within the Historic District and preferred that they be placed on Arboretum Drive.

Mr. Abbott and the Commission discussed whether placing signs would increase traffic, trash, and result in safety issues similar to those presented by unauthorized use of Fox Point. Other concerns regarding the size of the sign, nature of the Historic District and its uses were discussed.

The Commission then examined locations for placing a Town Forest sign on Nimble Hill Road. One location in the area between New Road and the existing Town sign (the New Road location) was viewed. David Hislop's survey marker indicating the corner of the Town Forest and Parsonage Lot was noted. However, the survey plan was not clear that the New Road area was part of the Town Forest.

The Commission then viewed the gate area on Nimble Hill Road beyond the Old Stone School. This area had poor visibility for sign placement, no parking facilities and was less suitable. A monument was located near the Old Stone School.

The Commission members agreed that the New Road location was preferable. It was also noted that the sign did not appear to be too large and was aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Abbott stated his personal opinion that the New Road location appeared to be preferable.

At approximately 7:20 PM the Commission members returned to the Old Town Hall and discussed proposals and objectives for the Forest Management Plan for the Town Forest. The following were reviewed: Forester Charlie Moreno's initial scope of work proposal, a list of objectives prepared by member Jane Hislop with input from foresters at the US Forest Service, and two lists of priorities prepared by Tom Morgan and Justin Richardson.

Nancy Cauvett discussed some of the management approaches used by groups such as the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Nature Conservancy and other organizations that might assist with assessment or mapping of the Town Forest.

After significant discussion on the scope of the management plan, short and long term goals, forestry, wildlife, recreational and other issues, it was agreed that the management plan should include the forest management, wildlife, and mapping sections of the Moreno proposal, with modifications discussed by the Commission.

The Commission members felt that it would be appropriate to defer other goals listed in Mr. Moreno's and the other proposals until a later date. Jane Hislop agreed to prepare a revised scope for Charlie Moreno so that he could provide a scope and estimate for the Commission's next meeting. The Commission could then vote on his proposal at its next meeting with any modifications, if needed.

The Commission members also agreed to invite David Hislop to its next meeting to explain ownership of the different Town Forest areas shown on his survey plan.

It was agreed to meet on the third Thursday in August (20th) due to schedule conflicts.

The Commission members thanked Mr. Abbott for attending the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM.