

Town of Newington, NH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 8, 2009

Call to Order: Justin Richardson, Chair Person called the October 8, 2009 meeting at 6:30 PM

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

Not Present: Margarethe Lamson, Vice Chair; and Dorothy Watson

Public Guests: Jack Pare with Maps of Conservation Lands in Newington; Chris Waszczuk and Marc Laurin, NHDOT; Matt McCormick, MSC Engineers for Tyco, and Peter Walsh, Facility Engineer with Tyco; Dave Hislop, Land Owner; Edna Mosher, Land Owner

1. **Maps of Newington Conservation Lands**

Jack Pare presented overhead projection of Newington Conservation Land maps to be used for reference during meeting, including lands around Great Bay. Tom Morgan will put maps on town website for public viewing.

2. **NHDOT re: Spaulding Turnpike Wetlands Mitigation and Preservation of Knight's Brook Wetlands**

Chris Waszczuk and Marc Laurin from NHDOT discussed potential property sites for them to restore, including habitat restoration from the 12.5 acres impacted by the Newington-Dover Spaulding Turnpike and Exits 4 and 4N Improvements (see 4.6.5.2 and Table 4.6-2 of "Newington-Dover Final Environmental Impact Statement"), as has already been approved for restoration of Railway Brook.

Noting The Nature Conservancy's challenges obtaining Watson property for conservation easement due to the property being in trust with a high assessment and restricted right of way access, other properties around Knights' Brook were viewed and discussed. He suggested Newington Conservation Commission (NCC) talk with landowners initially to determine if they are interested, and where subdivisions would be before doing appraisals, noting that NHDOT has provisions for appraisals with approval of surveys so they are thorough and not just a summary. Waszczuk noted that NHDOT specifically requires that the properties be 50% wetlands in order to receive credit with DES.

Justin Richardson recommended that Tom Morgan make contacts since he is already at Town Hall with access to land records. It was also suggested that

Town of Newington, NH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 8, 2009

the town could purchase properties and NCC could hold conservation easements for any landowner that isn't interested in retaining their property.

In response to further discussion of Wetlands Preservation requirements, Mr. Waszczuk said that agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting could either be retained with a managed plan or posted by the land owner(s), but even though public access isn't mandatory, NHDOT *would like* to see access to at least some divisions since they are using public funds. They would also prefer to restrict regular use of ATV's and off road vehicles to the public with perhaps an exception to snow mobiling, which may not do as much harm to the environment under snow cover. They would also like to name NCC as stewards of the conservation easements, and chairman, Justin Richardson agreed.

**3. Matt McCormick, Engineer for MSC Engineers
for Tyco Loading Ramp Erosion off Piscataqua River**

Mr. McCormick presented modified plans to fill with mineral soil and compact erosion area before covering with riprap and erosion stone.

NCC Chair, Justin Richardson asked if anything could be done to tilt pavement to encourage runoff before erosion spot, but Tyco facilitator, Peter Walsh said he believes the severe erosion occurred as a result more forceful tide surge and runoff due to the severe storms over the last couple of years, though it was confirmed that no edy studies had been done. George Fletcher requested follow-up observation to be done after changes done.

Jane Hislop motioned to approve minimum expedited action subject to changing use of concrete to natural boulders on plan. George Fletcher and Dorene Stern seconded, and motion was passed with all in favor.

4. Edna Mosher Nimble Hill Road Property Forestry Project

Edna Mosher presented proposal to selective cut 8-10 acres of pine borer damaged white pine, only good for chips for revenue, leaving hard wood behind. Proposing to begin after finding suitable forester/logger.

5. Town Forest Sign: Update

Chair, Justin Richardson asked Historic District Committee members to bring up signs to area, but one broke and will cost \$86 (?) to repair (\$1K deductible on insurance). Justin found contractor to install on (2) 9' L 6'x6''s pressure treated posts set in concrete with brass tops for \$675, instead of using Town.

Richardson moved to hire John Bean to install sign per specs. Jane Hislop seconded and motion passed with all in favor.

6. Fox Point Proposed Conservation Easement on Town Lands

Attorney, Peter Laughlin agreed to represent Newington Conservation Commission in drawing up conservation easement deed.

Town of Newington, NH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 8, 2009

7. **Shattuck Way Easement & Storm Water Regulations Update**

It was noted that the Storm Water Review may change the set back from 5,00 feet to 10,000 or 20,000 feet to protect landowners further and restrict industry. Currently the EPA [permits issued to DES specifies 50,000 feet.

Chairman Richardson clarified that deed would not be effective until delivered and approved by planning board.

8. **Invoices**

Jane Hislop motioned to pay \$15 on North Hill Nursery Invoice for mums used in town planting. Nancy Cauvet seconded and all voted in favor.

Nancy Cauvet motioned to pay \$63 to Jane Kendall for recording and reporting, September 17, 2009 minutes. Dorene Stern seconded and all voted in favor.

Jane Hislop motioned to pay West Environmental \$382 total for Railway Brook wetlands restoration consultation on September 14, 2009. Justin Richardson seconded and all approved unanimously.

9. **Correspondence**

Receipt of DES permits were noted.

Receipt of Salt Marsh Ecology and Conservation Workshop on October 23, 2009 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center noted. Limited to 16, Call Steve Miller at 778-1115 x 305, or email steve.miler@wildlife.nh.gov to register. \$15 for lunch, snacks and drinks.

10. **Minutes**

Due to long agenda and limited time it was decided to wait on minutes until next meeting.

11. **Other Business**

Nancy Cauvet discussed easement restrictions along roads for possible greenway with Planning Board Chair, Tom Morgan and it was determined that would run into existing gas pipelines and further in would go into private properties, although it may be that some property owners would support plantings. However, Jane Hislop noted the issue of what to plant would still be an issue as mowers and mice damaged previous plantings.

Adjournment: Moved to adjourn by Justin Richardson, seconded by. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. at Old Town Hall (?)

Submitted: Jane K. Kendall, Secretary