

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 12, 2009

Call to Order: Justin Richardson, Chair Person called the November 12, 2009 meeting at 6:30 PM

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

Late Arrival: Dorene Stern

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

Public Guests: Jack Pare with Maps of Conservation Lands in Newington; Chris Waszczuk and Victoria Chase, NHDOT; Jack, Bob and Paul Spinney, Land Owners; Sherry ?, from?

1. NHDOT re: Spaulding Turnpike Wetlands Mitigation and Preservation of Knight's Brook Wetlands Follow-Up

Chris Waszczuk and Victoria Chase from NHDOT discussed potential interest in future discussions regarding acquiring portions of Spinney properties for conservation easements, including where subdivisions for future intentions would be before and after the establishment of easements, noting that NHDOT has provisions to pay for appraisals with approval of prior surveys. Waszczuk explained that NHDOT specifically requires that the properties be 50% wetlands, including some uplands areas in order to receive credit with DES for natural 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 in Newington.

It was also previously suggested that the town could purchase approved properties and NCC could hold conservation easements for any landowner that isn't interested in retaining their property.

In response to further inquiries 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 conservation areas since they are using public funds..

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2. National Tire and Battery Proposal to clear trees in or adjacent to wetlands on Woodbury Ave.

Sherry ? of NHSC Environmental Consultants brought "Proposed Vegetation Removal Plan" to commission for approval to clear overgrowth of trees and shrubs that have obstructed view of National Tire and Battery sign from Woodbury Ave.

NCC Chair, Justin Richardson motioned to concur with proposal subject to best management practices of forestry as stated in the proposal. Jane Hislop seconded and all members approved.

3. Town Forest Sign: Update

Contractor, John Bean has installed the Town Forest Sign at the trail entrance just before the Old Parsonage on Nimble Hill Road.

Chair, Justin Richardson proposed mapping the trails by spring and installing a box with maps in a box on the signpost. Jack Pare showed the mapping he had done of the Fox Point trails as an example, suggesting we could coordinate the points with a GPS unit. Jane Hislop suggested working with the Newington Recreation Committee on the project. Tom and all agreed that Tom would check into mapping grade GPS units with downloadable USB ports.

Removal of the piles of large stones that are blocking easy access to the Town Forest trail entrance was discussed. Justin Richardson said he would look into what would be involved with getting someone from the town to move the rocks to the side with a backhoe. These rocks were deposited there from developers who removed them from former stone walls and are still of value as they have been used to create the stone wall in front of the Old Parsonage and repair the cemetery stone walls.

4. Budget for 2010

Budget Items were itemized as follows:

| <u>Line Items</u> | <u>\$ Budget</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Secretarial | \$2,000.00 |
| Legal | \$5,000.00 |
| Gen'l Supplies | \$100.00 |
| Dues & Subscriptions | \$200.00 |
| Beautification | \$400.00 |
| Consultants | \$3,000.00 |
| Reference Books | \$1.00 |
| Town Forest | \$4,000.00 |
| Prior Yr Encumbrance | Remaining Bal. |

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Jane Hislop motioned to approve 2010 Budget of \$14,701 plus remains of 2009 encumbrances. Dorene seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Invoices

George Fletcher motioned to pay Contractor, John Bean's \$675 Invoice for installation of the Newington Town Forest sign. Dorene Stern seconded and all voted in favor.

Jane Hislop motioned to pay Attys, Baldwin & Cullen \$1,652.38 legal representation regarding Newington Conservation Commission's designation of prime wetlands on PDA property. Justin Richardson seconded, and all voted in favor.

Justin Richardson motioned to pay Jane Kendall's \$72 invoice for recording and transcribing the October 8, 2009 NCC Meeting Minutes. Jane Hislop seconded and all approved unanimously.

6. Update on Storm Regulations

A public hearing to be held on Monday, November 23, 2009.

7. Minutes

Jane Hislop moved to approve, and George Fletcher seconded. All voted in favor.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. at Town Hall

Submitted: Jane K. Kendall, Secretary