

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 5, 2023

- Call to Order:** Chair Jane Hislop called the October 5, 2023, meeting held at the Langdon Library at 4:30 PM.
- Present:** Commissioners Andrew Meigs; Derick Willson; Town Planner, John Krebs; and Recording Secretary Jane Kendall
- Absent:** Vice-Chair Laura Rogers; Commissioner Jim Weiner; Alternate Member, Bill Murray

1) Other Business and Discussions:

A) Fox Point

Town Planner, John Krebs informed the commissioners that the cutting of dead trees had occurred on Fox Point, and suggested that they have a site walk to review. Mr. Krebs said he would send an email next Monday, suggesting next Thursday with the weather permitting.

Chair Hislop noted that the area along the path across from the road where there was a stand of ash was referred to as an invasives island. Chair Hislop said the invasives were hard to clear because they were growing in an old foundation where rocks and trash were dumped, but they thought the invasives might be the reason the ash had survived.

Chair Hislop commented that a nice job had been done in replacing the stairs going down to the beach, and noted that erosion had started near the cement pad near the stairs.

Mr. Krebs said the Board of Selectmen had riprap installed on both sides of the walkway, but not the ramp. Mr. Krebs said they could loam and overseed the area if the the rip rap held the soil back.

Commissioner Andrew Meigs asked if they installed a landing. Chair Hislop said they had not, but they did put railings in to meet code, and a cement face at top to anchor.

Mr. Krebs asked if anyone mowed the fields in the fall. Chair Hislop said the Town found a farmer from Maine that mowed a car width leading to the fields, and did a few loops around.

Commissioner Derick Willson said he mowed his field early in the season before the killdeer came into nest, and asked if there was a scheduled cutting plan to prevent

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succession. Chair Hislop said the lower field has started to grow a bit, but it has been a horrible summer for mowing.

Chair Hislop said the City of Portsmouth Water Department sent notification regarding the dredge and fill for the water main. Mr. Krebs said that was a copy for the Durham side, but they did not have their permit for Newington.

B) Old Sullivan Bridge

Mr. Krebs said only one bid of \$85,000,000 had been submitted to restore the old General Sullivan bridge, but the Department of Transportation only budgeted \$35,000,000. Mr. Krebs said it would have been cheaper to cantilever a walking bridge.

Chair Hislop said some historians said they wanted to restore the General Sullivan bridge because it was the last remaining model of that style of bridge, but there were no funds at the time, so they put it off.

Chair Hislop said there is a temporary bike lane on the Rowe bridge, but they were going to take it back for auto travel sooner than later.

2) Additional Discussions

Mr. Krebs said Wilcox Industries was proposing a a parking garage with solar arrays on the top.

Mr. Krebs said Newington did not allow open space subdivisions, but wondered if they might consider solar panels in wetlands. Mr. Krebs said the only impact would be a pole in the ground.

Minutes: Andrew Meigs moved to approve the August 10, 2023, Minutes with corrections as discussed. Derick Willson seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment: *Andrew Meigs moved to adjourn. Chair Hislop seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. followed by Fall for the Bay Presentation by Karen Provazza, CCO for Seacoast Science Center at 5:30 p.m.*

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2022

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