

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2012

- Call to Order:** Co-Chairs, Justin Richardson and Jane Hislop called the September 13, 2012 meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
- Present:** Justin Richardson, Co-Chair; Jane Hislop, Co-Chair; Margaret Lamson; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner
- Absent:** Marge Hislop, Nancy Cauvet, George Fletcher, Nell Ann Hiatt, and Jim Weiner
- Public Guests:** John Chagnon, PE with Ambit Engineering

1) Referral by Planning Board for review of landscaping proposal by **TWA property**, 521 Shattuck Way, Tax Map 7, Lot 3

John Chagnon, PE for Ambit Engineering came before the Commission at the bequest of the Planning Board for a review of the landscaping plan for the TWA property that had been drawn up by landscape designer, Jackie Noonan. Upon reviewing the plan, Town Planner, Tom Morgan reminded Mr. Chagnon that the Planning Board had asked that the line of sight from the driveway be kept clear, and recommended that three of the trees along the road be removed.

Co-Chair, Jane Hislop said that there was a lot of monoculture in the plan, and mixing species would be a good alternative to protect the plantings from disease or pest attacks. Peggy Lamson suggested breaking up the linear formality by staggering the plantings..

Jane Hislop also suggested inquiring to see if the arborvitae near the dumpster could handle the effects of snow plowing, and suggested they might want to move them further back or look into the possibility of another species like dwarf spruce.

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson asked about their vacuuming schedule in their storm water maintenance plan. Richardson recommended frequent vacuuming to keep sand from building up and spoiling the intentions of pervious pavement. Tom Morgan said the Planning Board had approved the storm water maintenance plan already.

Co-Chair Richardson commented that fisherman commonly park in the area when they fish off the bridge area, and there is a good deal of litter in the area from other passersby. Peggy Lamson agreed that litter is common in the area. Richardson said he recommended the landscape maintenance schedule be changed to remove weekly or as needed.

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2012

Justin Richardson moved to approve TWA's landscaping plan for their property at 521 Shattuck Way, Tax Map 7, Lot 3 subject to moving trees away from the snow storage areas as appropriate to prevent plow damage; to remove two of the red maples from the south and reconfigure others to enhance safe sight distance; and to change the landscape maintenance schedule for the removal of litter and debris to weekly or as needed, with the Conservation Commission authorizing the Town Planner to review and approve the changes. Jane Hislop seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2) Fox Point Conservation Easement

A brief discussion of former attempts to create a conservation easement document for Fox Point was discussed, noting that Attorney Peter Loughlin had declined to continue with the document. Co-Chair, Justin Richardson said Attorney, FX Bruton is highly motivated, and suggested contacting him. Peggy Lamson recommended contacting him to obtain information and review it before the next meeting scheduled on October 11, 2012.

Peggy Lamson moved to authorize the Town Planner to engage Attorney FX Bruton to continue work on the Fox Point easement project, and to come to the next Conservation Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2012. Jane Hislop seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

3) Report from Town Planner regarding a proposal to explore the feasibility of building a Multi-use Path along Nimble Hill from the Fire Station to Shattuck Way

Town Planner, Tom Morgan provided the Commission with a copy of Altus Engineering's Bike Path Conceptual Design NB4393. Co-Chair, Justin Richardson expressed concern roads and bike *lane* safety, which would give the false impression that the road is safe to travel at faster speeds, as well as biking *paths*, which would be like a sidewalk, mostly used for school children, and possibly commuters, but wouldn't be used by sports bikers who would still use the road, and continue to be a safety issue with vehicles. Richardson suggested they might want to consider bump outs, or rows of sign posts to slow traffic on widened roads for a bike lane, adding that the rural character of Town and safety may be at odds. Tom Morgan agreed that widening roads for bike lanes would encourage cars to go faster and be more careless, and is concerned with the increase in drive through traffic that will result from the Spaulding Expansion construction. Richardson went on to say speed traps usually don't slow traffic down, they just increase revenue from the number of people that get caught. Morgan agreed, and added that regular commuters quickly learn where the speed traps are and tend to slow down just in those places.

Tom Morgan said his original goal for a bike path was to get some of the school children off the buses, out of cars, exercising in the fresh air, and create a safe path to get to and from school. Justin Richardson said air pollution mitigation funding is pointedly about reducing motorized transportation. Co-Chair, Jane Hislop said there are two issues at hand, one being the youth safety, and the other being road bikes coming through town, noting that they may not be able to solve both problems at once, but that

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2012

this is a good opportunity for review. Morgan said the Planning Board had already proposed a bike path along the turnpike to DOT, which would add another alternate route for commuters. Justin Richardson suggested having Altus Engineering meet with the Commission, the Planning Board or both jointly rather than allowing a committee to take on a life of its own without reviewing the issues sufficiently.

Justin Richardson moved to recommend that the Board of Selectmen amend the scope of its consideration of a bike path from the Fire Station on Nimble Hill Road down Shattuck Way and connecting to the General Sullivan bike bridge, to include one or more meetings with the Conservation Commission and/or the Planning Board. Jane Hislop seconded, and all were in favor.

Tom Morgan suggested asking the Board of Selectmen to charge the committee to plan a network of multiuse paths through Town. Justin Richardson said starting a committee would be within the committee's mandate. Tom Morgan agreed, but said they may need to recommend a mandate. Jane Hislop said she also agreed because otherwise they might only focus on Nimble Hill Road. Tom Morgan said it would also be a good opportunity to survey Town land to know where the boundaries are.

4) Other Discussions:

Justin Richardson and Peggy Lamson commended Town Planner, Tom Morgan on his memorandum to the Planning Board, which reviewed procedure, and the history on the Mazeau subdivision proposal. A brief discussion ensued regarding questions about the Zoning Board of Adjustment approving variances for the subdivision without their own review of the five criteria; and Planning Board, Vice Chair, and ZBA representative, Mike Marconi advising the ZBA that the Planning Board put the Conservation Commissions recommendations on the Mazeau subdivision on file, without further detail or discussion. Justin Richardson said he wanted to know more about comments that were made about problems with putting a building over a non-existent well to the back of Lot 14-7.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 2012

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary