

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2012

Call to Order: Co-Chair Justin Richardson called the December 13, 2012 meeting at 6:30 PM.

Present: Justin Richardson, Co-Chair; Jane Hislop, Co-Chair; Nancy Cauvet; Margaret Lamson; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner

Absent: George Fletcher; Nell Ann Hiatt; and Marge Hislop

Public Guests: Dave Mueller

1) Dredge and Fill Application from Stump, Inc. for Town of Newington Public School:

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson presented an application to put drainage ditches to be excavated, deepened, and widened along the school driveway, and complete the riprap in the field that wasn't finished because the contractors, Stump, Inc. didn't get a wetlands permit before doing the work. Co-Chair Richardson said he would be especially concerned that trucks would damage the horse chestnuts planted along the school driveway. He also noted there would be 340 cubic feet of sediment discarded at the Newington transfer station.

Dave Mueller of Coleman Drive said he objects to the project because he already lost part of his lawn when the nearby culvert was replaced, and is afraid that changing the drainage that comes out under Nimble Hill will drain into his land more. As it is, Mr. Mueller runs a sump pump in his basement every two hours. Richardson said other abutters were notified, but Dave Mueller said the Town had not notified him of the project, even though he feels he would be most impacted because the culvert drains directly onto his property. A review of the application package showed no receipt sending notification to landowners of major impact.

Nancy Cauvet wondered why they didn't create a retaining pond in the field, and Co-Chair, Jane Hislop said there used to be a skating pond there.

Co-Chair Richardson read the reasons for the project, listing flooding damage to property, namely the soccer fields, as well as wet basements, but Richardson said surrounding soil would need to be conducive to drainage, and he didn't see how that could be with the heavy clay soils, and didn't see that the drainage ditches would accomplish their objective. Richardson said he invited the Board of Selectmen and the contractor to the discussion, but they were not in attendance.

Jane Hislop moved to vigorously recommend denial of the proposal. Peggy Lamson seconded, and all were in favor.

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2) Town Forest Management Plan

Co-Chair Richardson said he had received an update from Mark West, Environmental Consulting, and recommended that Commissioners review the first draft and make recommendations for the next meeting. Richardson said he would like to see the fenced boundaries of the air national guard, the library, the parsonage, and the Stone School on the map.

3) 2013 Budget

Co-Chair Richardson said he attended the recent Budget Meeting, and made a correction to the Beautification line item to bring into agreement the total that had been voted upon.

Richardson noted that the Conservation Fund is still in a CD account, and not accessible, so payments come out of the General Fund, and are then repaid once a year, which is unprecedented.

4) Invoices:

Nancy Cauvet attended the Piscataqua Regional Estuary Conference last week at a cost of \$50.

Justin Richardson moved to reimburse Nancy Cauvet \$50 for the PREP Conference. Jane Hislop seconded, and all were in favor.

Jane Hislop moved to pay Mark West Environmental \$1,695.80 for the Town Forest management plan. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all were in favor.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2013

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary