

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 10, 2011

Call to Order: Co-Chairs Justin Richardson and Jane Hislop called the November 10, 2011 meeting at 6:30 PM.

Present: Justin Richardson, Co-Chair Person; Jane Hislop, Co-Chair; Nancy Cauvet; Dorene Stern (arrived later); and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner

Absent: George Fletcher; Nell Ann Hiatt; Margaret Lamson

Public Guests: Alicia Busconi with KeyPoint Partners, Property Management for The Crossings at Fox Run, and Justin Gamely with Piscataqua Landscaping; Board of Selectman, Rick Stern

The Public Hearing was delayed because of a lack of forum for voting until an additional member was called in and arrived later. A brief discussion of additional alternate members ensued, with suggestions to contact potential candidates to volunteer.

1) Correspondence

Town Planner, Tom Morgan reviewed recent correspondence, including a notice regarding a presentation on Changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center on Depot Road in Greenland on Friday, November 18, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., or December 6, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There is no charge, but anyone interested should RSVP with their name, phone number, organization title and date of preference to: steve.miller@wildlife.nh.gov

2) Invoices:

A request for payment to West Environmental for his environmental review of the Mazeau property under consideration for a conservation easement was made out.

Request for payment to Jane Kendall (and her son, Paul Fitzgerald) for summer watering and weeding the year old planting of trees around the Newington Public School was made out.

Request for payment to Bruton and Berube for legal work on the Hislop Easement was made out. Co-Chair, Justin Richardson noted that he went to the Board of Selectmen Meeting with the invoice for payment on the previous Monday, and was advised that payment would need to come out of the Conservation Fund after all.

3) Policy Discussions

A) Fertilizer Reduction Strategies

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson commented that attempts to limit use of fertilizers to properties within 250 feet of shoreline in Greenland was voted down by residents living

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 10, 2011

within that buffer zone. Commissioner, Nancy Cauvet suggested prohibiting the use of commercial fertilizer application town wide. Town Planner, Tom Morgan said there are very few decorative, uni-species lawns along the Newington shoreline except the Golf Course at Pease is one of the few large-scale areas that use commercial fertilizers.

Justin Richardson said the UNH presentation on nitrogen pollution in Great Bay suggested septic leaching. Nancy Cauvet said a requirement for pumping every three years could be instituted, noting that the disposal should occur at Newington Waste Water Treatment's secondary treatment, instead of in Portsmouth that only has primary treatment.

Morgan suggested that fertilizer reduction is the easiest and least expensive means of enlisting residents to assist with reducing nitrogen pollution in Great Bay. Morgan recommended forming a separate committee to organize a campaign to educate residents on the subject. Richardson recommended contacting interested parties who might make scientifically based recommendations. Nancy Cauvet agreed to join the committee.

B) Procedures for Disposal of Invasive Species

Tom Morgan said a resident who wanted to know if the Town had policy procedures for the disposal of invasive species recently contacted him. A brief discussion ensued regarding best practices for the disposal of certain species, including oriental bittersweet, which spreads exponentially through the disbursement of its seeds ingested by birds, and also sprouts when roots are broken through digging. Justin Richardson said purple loosestrife also spreads through its seeds, and recommendations for putting the seed heads in black plastic bags, or careful burning were discussed.

4) Public Hearings:

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson expressed concern that members of the public were waiting to join the Commission for a discussion, and no additional members of the Commission had arrived to make a quorum, but decided to allow preliminary discussion while waiting. As it turned out, it was a preliminary inquiry, not a Public Hearing that required any votes.

Alicia Busconi with KeyPoint Partners, Property Management for the Crossings at Fox Point came before the Commission with plans to initiate better property management practices. Busconi expressed primary concern for the overgrowth of brush growing up to the edge of Gosling Road around the Coast bus stop, causing bus riders to wait out in the road. Busconi said they would ideally like to begin the project this year.

Busconi also said they would be interested in clearing up additional overgrowth around the property perimeters that interferes with visibility of stop signs and to slow traffic. Busconi said there are groups of kids in the area that have vandalized the area. Busconi said there is no bus stop shelter in the area and believes it was pushed into the overgrowth. Tom Morgan said they could contact Coast bus lines to the bus

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 10, 2011

shelter replaced. and would like to improve visibility in dark areas for safety concerns for late night theatre patrons, and eliminate overgrowth traps of disposed garbage.

Commissioner, Nancy Cauvet asked Busconi if they had checked the area for wetlands. Justin Gamely with Piscataqua Landscaping said they found one area with cattails in an area coming in from Woodbury Ave. Co-Chair Richardson said dredging or filling a wetlands area is not permissible without a wildlife management or forest management plan, or variance. Richardson said the NCC recommends best management practices (BMP's), noting that the area around National Tire & Battery (NTB) is full of invasive species, but neighboring Olive Garden Restaurant has successfully managed the vegetation in their area. Richardson said that Wetlands Article 10 permits habitat and forestry best management practices within district boundaries of jurisdictional wetlands with buffer provisions. Richardson said a tenant in the area previously came before the Commission with plans to remove invasives and replace them with native species without disturbing the water quality in the wetlands. Town Planner, Tom Morgan suggested that Busconi contact a wetlands scientist to map the area. Co-Chair, Jane Hislop pointed out that they cannot disturb the wetlands with power equipment without a permit, but they can remove invasives by hand.

Justin Gamely said they would also like to do some deep root fertilization of some of the trees in the area that are not healthy due to the beating they take from the asphalt heat, compaction of traffic, lack of water, and salt in winter.

Busconi asked how they should handle overgrown areas that aren't wetlands. Nancy Cauvet recommended low growing, native shrubs, and Co-Chair Hislop suggested set backs would be better for visibility also. Justin Gamely expressed concern with planting anything of value along the area off Gosling Road, and said they are considering using a bush whacker, and planting grasses that would just require mowing. Tom Morgan reiterated that they could only maintain areas outside the wetlands buffer zone of 25 feet, but would need a permit or variance to do any maintenance inside the wetlands buffer zones. Morgan also said he would like to see them avoid construction disturbance that spoils the appearance of the area for any length of time as was the case with a neighboring tenant.

5) Pending Business: Tree Trimming

Board of Selectman, Rick Stern announced the PDA had marked the trees they are proposing to cut in Town, and that the BOS are meeting with someone regarding FAA rules on the following Monday, November 14, 2011.

Stern also announced that the Town would be doing some tree trimming themselves along Town roads in the next week.

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 10, 2011

3) Town Forest Management Plan

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson said a consultant will be needed to advise whether to cap or dispose of the potential hazardous waste in middle of the Town Forest. Town Planner, Tom Morgan said the Pease Air Force created the waste site and would be responsible for it. Morgan suggested contacting someone who worked for the Air Force to advise. Justin Richardson suggested that hiring a professional to prioritize analysis of DES military hazardous waste records, provide a report and make management recommendations would be quicker than relying on someone to volunteer their time.

Justin Richardson said he had obtained an estimate for the removal of the rocks deposited at the entrance of the Town Forest. After a brief discussion, Selectman, Rick Stern said the Town could take care of the rocks themselves to avoid the additional expense.

4) 2012 Budget

The line items for the 2012 Budget for the Conservation Commission were reviewed. In discussing the Beautification line item, Rick Stern said Town Building Inspector, John Stowell is making a plan for buildings and grounds maintenance so that the Conservation Commission would not have to put the maintenance of Town properties in their budget.

Co-Chair, Jane Hislop moved to accept the proposed 2012 Budget for \$15,251 and any remaining funds from 2011 to be encumbered. Dorene Stern seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Minutes: Jane Hislop motioned to approve of the October 13, 2011 Minutes. Nancy Cauvet seconded. Dorene Stern was not in attendance of the meeting and abstained. All others were in favor.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary