

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, February 24, 2011

Call to Order: Chair Justin Richardson called the February 24, 2011 meeting at 6:05 PM.

Present: Justin Richardson, Chair Person; Margaret Lamson, Vice Chair; Nancy Cauvet; Jane Hislop; Dorene Stern; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner

Absent: George Fletcher and Nell Ann Hiatt;

Public Guests: Mark West of West Environmental

1) Town Forest Management Plan, Proposal by Mark West

Mark West came before the board to review maps of the Town Forest and discuss possibilities initiating the Town Forest Management Plan for the area at the end of Town between the Historical District and Pease. West said he would like to begin the project in the spring so he could locate and document the vernal pools when they are active. After extensive discussion, it was determined that the best course of action would be to do mapping that would include a more accurate wetlands boundaries, hydrology, trails, parking and access; then take an inventory identifying rare and endangered species as well as invasives. Once that is done he could make suggestions as to what needs to be done from there. West also said he would not be doing any hazardous waste site management. Town Planner, Tom Morgan said any hazardous waste sites have monitoring wells and are fenced off.

Board Chair, Justin Richardson said the Town is under mandate from transfer of the deed to have a management plan on record so it would be important that even though not complete, this be identified as Part I of the plan.

2) Prime Wetlands Designation on PDA Lands

Discussion ensued as to the wetlands area around Pease Golf Course, noting that the Pease Development Authority (PDA) is concerned that a buffer zone will extend on to the golf course fairway; therefore the Town of Newington agreed that they would adjust the buffer accordingly. Chair, Justin Richardson wrote a letter to the PDA recommending that the buffer could be moved back to the actual boundary unless it is at the edge of the fairway. Consultant, Mark West recommended using the PDA survey, and said he thought the PDA would probably agree to the designated wetlands.

Richardson asked West if it is permissible for the PDA to mow or clear cut on wetlands. Mr. West said DES requires a 100 foot buffer for wetlands, and requires a permit for fill or grading, but not for cutting.

(Vice Chair, Peggy Lamson recused herself from the above discussion and left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

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3) Discussion of Proposal to Use Conservation Funds to Purchase an Easement for the Preservation of Knights Brook in Conjunction with the Department of Transportation Wetlands Mitigation for the Expansion of the Spaulding Turnpike.

(Commission member, Jane Hislop recused herself from the discussion.)

Discussion ensued as to the merits of the Commission contributing funds for the conservation easement of mitigation properties purchased by DOT to ensure their preservation.

Commission member, Nancy Cauvet moved to authorize the proposal to go into negotiations with the NH Department of Transportation Wetlands Mitigation for the purchase of the Saba property and conservation easement of the Hislop property for the preservation of Knights Brook. Dorene Stern seconded and all were in favor. (Chair, Justin Richardson and Commission member, Jane Hislop recused themselves from the vote).

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2011 unless otherwise notified

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary