

**Town of Newington, NH**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 23, 2017

**Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop called the February 23, 2017 meeting at 6:30 PM.

**Present:** Co-Chair Jim Weiner; Ann Morton; and Alternate, Jane Kendall

**Absent:** Sandy Devins; Bill Murray; Town Planner, Gerald Coogan

**Public Guests:** Chris Cross, Margaret Lamson, Pease Development Authority Airport Committee Board Member and Lulu Pickering

**1) Removal of Trees in Pease Flight Path: Update**

Co-Chairs Hislop and Weiner opened discussion of a memorandum by University of New Hampshire forester, Fred Borman with recommendations regarding the replanting of trees after their removal at the north end of the Pease runway.

Co-Chair Weiner said he attended the January 2017 PDA meeting to discuss recommendations made by Pease Development Authority (PDA) Airport Committee Board members, Margaret Lamson and Peter Loughlin. He went on to say that the PDA Board passed a motion that they would work with Newington to come up with a mitigation plan that would support replanting trees and maintenance of the area. He said the PDA said they would take care of the planting and suggested that the Town of Newington would water them and maintain the area with a bush hog twice a year. He added that foresters for the PDA and Newington were to look at the parcel in question and make recommendations, which was done in Mr. Borman's memo.

Lulu Pickering of Little Bay Road said she also attended the meeting and thought good intentions were expressed between the PDA and the Board of Selectmen and that they would follow through with an agreement. Co-Chair Weiner agreed that the Board of Selectmen were supportive of the Commission seeking the assistance of a wetlands scientist and forester. He said Town counsel, Attorney John Ratigan also recommended that the PDA attorneys and representatives from Newington and Portsmouth work together as well, but a complete consensus had not been reached yet.

Ms. Lamson agreed that the Conservation Commission needed a map so everyone would be on the same page and that it was her mission for the PDA to work with the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Lamson suggested that the Conservation Commission invite Mr. Borman to another meeting to clarify questions on his memorandum. She said it would also be good to talk to Angelique DeButts with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Wildlife Services in Concord.

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Ms. Pickering stated that she thought discussing the forester's memo was premature as there still were several unresolved issues on the table, such as a question on the 200-foot buffer along McIntyre Road, the assumption that maintenance would be assumed by Newington, where the boundaries for the plantings would be and whether the hill along the wetlands might be replanted. Co-Chair Hislop agreed that the Commission needed to talk with the foresters for further clarification on the plantings.

Co-Chair Weiner said the PDA was only talking about planting three rows of one gallon trees, but six rows of larger trees would be better so they wouldn't have to wait ten to thirty years for the trees to grow large enough to create an adequate buffer. He said it would've been beneficial for Newington to receive the \$71,000 that the PDA would pay into the Aquatic Resources Mitigation (A.R.M.) fund, considering that the PDA was currently only offering a contribution of \$7,000 for the trees.

Co-Chair Weiner said he wondered how much runway would be visible. Ms. Pickering said lights and noise coming from the base were also issues.

Ms. Lamson said the PDA got their Alteration of Terrain (AoT) permit and that Town engineering consultant, Eric Weinrieb with Altus Engineering was reviewing the AoT permit. She went on to say that they also received their Wetlands Permit from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and had informed Town Planner, Gerald Coogan on January 22, 2017. Co-Chair Weiner said the Conservation Commission had not seen copies of the permits. Ms. Lamson said she would forward a copy of the approvals to the Conservation Commission members.

Co-Chair Hislop said Angelique DeButts with the USDA's Wildlife Services also sent a memo that didn't get passed on to the Conservation Commission as well. Co-Chair Weiner said he would speak with Mr. Coogan regarding passing on correspondence and documents to the Commissioners.

Ms. Pickering said no one had seen a map and it was not clear how runoff would change after the trees were cut even though the AoT permit referenced a detention pond. Chris Cross of Nimble Hill Road agreed that the removal of trees would create a substantial change to water tables as well.

Mr. Cross said Sam Rose Hill was left bare when the Town removed gravel for the mall area. He said the Mazeau's had owned it, but it should have been taken for proper runway development there was a steep incline, a gravel pit and a headwall that would be an atrocious place for a plane crash as well as impossible for emergency vehicles to access. He suggested that the Commission review the AoT application and that the PDA might want to taper and smooth the area down. Co-Chair Hislop said the area would otherwise be a challenge for a water truck to access the trees as well.

Discussion continued regarding watering the newly planted trees. Alternate Commissioner, Jane Kendall suggested using the same kind of watering gators that the landscapers had provided to establish the tree plantings between the fire station and the Newington Public School.

Commissioner Kendall asked if anything further had been discussed regarding selective cutting of the taller bull pines in the center of the wetlands at the end of the runway so that fewer trees would be cut along the sides. Mr. Cross responded that they had consulted the Air Guard and explained that cutting N1 and N2 was necessary for

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approach and to clear the area if there were engine issues, which could cause a plane to drift to the side.

Co-Chair Weiner said he was not sure when the PDA needed a memorandum response from the Commission, but he would call Mr. Coogan to see if Mr. Borman would be available to attend a meeting with the Commission next Thursday, March 2, 2017.

**2) Conservation Easements and Mitigation Discussions:**

- A) Regarding John and Meg Ripley's conservation easement proposal at their property at 50 Old Post Road, Map 17, Lot 15

Co-Chair Weiner said the next step in proceeding with the easement would be to wait for Town Meeting and the warrant article to pass.

Co-Chair Hislop said she would not be present for Town Meeting and Co-Chair Weiner if he would read a letter for the warrant requests.

- B) Regarding a conservation easement on Jeffrey and Jill Boynton's property located at # Old Post Road, Map #, Lot #

Co-Chair Weiner said the Boynton's were trying to find a simple easement and were emailing Tracy Degnan with Rockingham Conservation District Commission.

Mr. Cross suggested that the Conservation Commission present open space plans with Planning Board.

**3) Eversource's "Seacoast Reliability" Transmission Line Expansion Project:**  
Impact letter by Town wetlands consultant, Mark West, CWS

The Commission went over the review of Eversource's Seacoast Reliability application that Mr. West wrote and sent to Dori Wiggin at DES as had been discussed at their previous meeting. The review contained several clarifications and request for amendments on wetlands impacts in Newington from the project.

Co-Chair Hislop said there was nothing in the report about impacts from the marine cable because Durham had a specialist working on that.

Co-Chair Hislop noted that Mr. West had concluded that the clarifications would raise the mitigation impacts from \$80,000 to \$300,000.

**4) Town Planner's Report:**

Co-Chair Weiner informed the Commission that John Emery had submitted a wetlands permit request for a fixed pier off his property on Fabyan Point Road. He said he would have Mr. Coogan contact him to see if a representative could attend the meeting next week.

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Co-Chair Hislop noted that the harbor master had referenced the wrong address on the Dover side of the Piscataqua River.

**Minutes:**

*Co-Chair Hislop made a motion to **approve** the Minutes of January 12, 2017. am seconded and all were in favor.*

*Co-Chair Hislop made a motion to **approve** the Minutes of January 17, 2017. am seconded and all were in favor.*

**Adjournment:**      *The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:**      Thursday, March 2, 2017

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

*These Minutes were approved and adopted by the Conservation Commission at their March 2, 2017 Meeting.*