

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 13, 2016

Call to Order: Co-Chair Jane Hislop called the October 13, 2016 meeting at 6:30 PM.

Present: Sandy Devins; Cindy Gunn; Ann Morton; Alternate, Jane Kendall; and Interim Planner, Gerald Coogan

Absent: Bill Murray and Jim Weiner

Public Guests:

1) Newington Conservation Properties: Review of Map

Interim Planner, Gerald Coogan presented a map of known conservation properties in town and the Commissioners reviewed the map for accuracy.

Commissioner Jane Kendall noted that property behind Eastern Bearing off Shattuck Way given to the town by Todd Adelman of KWC, LLC was not on the Map 7, Lot 2. Co-Chair Hislop said she did not recall hearing about the property being put into a conservation easement.

Co-Chair Hislop also noted that the Baird conservation easement should be identified around Map 56, Lot 53-5, and the Ripley's should not be on the map until the purchase and easement was final.

Co-Chair Hislop also questioned the location of the conservation easement for the old Beane Farm and asked Mr. Coogan to check the records.

Co-Chair Hislop also noted that there appeared to be a wetlands designation on the Glynn property on Welch Cove, Map 22, Lot 23-1, but she didn't recall any easement there and wondered if it was an error.

Co-Chair Hislop added that there needed to be clarification on the private and Town owned color legend for the Saba property on the corner of Fox Point and Old Post Roads.

Co-Chair Hislop noted that Mott's Pond was put in for fire suppression and was managed by the Town, but wondered if it was owned by the Spinney's or the Town.

2) Conservation Easements and Mitigation Update: Regarding John and Meg Ripley's property at # Old Post Road, Tax Map #? And Lot #?

Co-Chair Hislop asked Mr. Coogan to provide an update on the progress of acquiring funding for the Ripley's conservation easement.

Mr. Coogan said Sarah Allen with Normandeau Environmental Engineering was putting together a package for the Seacoast Reliability package and the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (A.R.M.) application that would be done by November. He added

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that he also received the signed letter of agreement and everything she needed for the application.

Co-Chair Hislop said she thought they should wait until they received confirmation before having David Hislop do the surveying.

Mr. Coogan said he contacted the Boynton's in May and asked if it would be all right to follow up with them. The commission agreed and Co-Chair Hislop said it would be helpful to know their response as it might affect their warrant request.

3) Budget: 2017 NCC Budget and Warrant Articles

Mr. Coogan informed the commissioners that Co-Chair Weiner was not able to attend the meeting, but had provided his thoughts on the budget to him.

Mr. Coogan said Co-Chair Weiner recommended that the Commission spend \$140,000 of the \$150,000 from the Conservation Fund toward the purchase of the Ripley property, leaving some in the account to garner approval for increasing the Conservation Fund request from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

Mr. Coogan said if they received A.R.M. funding, they would need to request another \$40,000 in a warrant article.

Commissioner Devins asked how the amount for the conservation easement was approved and Co-Chair Hislop replied that it was based on the appraisal.

Commissioner Cindy Gunn asked when they would know if they received the A.R.M. funds and Mr. Coogan replied that he thought they would know by December.

Co-Chair Hislop said the Commission was scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen for their review of the budget on November 7, 2016 at 7:20 p.m. She said there were no dates for meeting with the Budget Committee yet.

Co-Chair Hislop noted that she hadn't received what percentage of FICA and Medical payments that would need to be on the Commission's budget yet.

The Commissioners discussed the budget line items and recommended keeping Legal, Supplies, Beautification and Reference books at the same rate.

The Commission recommended increasing the Secretarial budget line to \$2,500, noting that additional funds could be moved to another line item if it was not used by the end of the year.

Co-Chair Hislop recommended increasing Dues and Subscriptions for the Association of Conservation Commissions from \$236 to \$250 because the dues kept going up.

Co-Chair Hislop recommended dropping the Community Education line item down to \$500.

Discussion ensued regarding the Consultant budget line, which had over spent from the 2016 budget. Co-Chair said she asked the Board of Selectmen to move funds to cover the line item, but they had not done so yet.

Commissioner Gunn asked how often the Commission spent \$5,000 on a consultant. Co-Chair Hislop said if the Commission continued to try acquire the Ripley property, they would need a survey so suggested \$5,000. Commissioner Kendall added

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that it might also be used if the Boynton's were interested in putting some of their property into a conservation easement.

Discussion ensued regarding the Town Forest budget line. Commissioner Kendall asked if the Commission could continue in any way in the coming year.

The Commissioners discussed costs of testing the old dump in the forest before consolidating and deciding on covering or treatment. Commissioner Gunn suggested leaving \$1,500 in the budget so the Commission obtain a consultant to consider clean up grants first.

Co-Chair Hislop suggested using \$1,000 to cover the cost of conservation easement signs to mark wetlands.

The Commission discussed the warrant articles

Co-Chair Hislop asked if the Commission agreed that they should request \$30,000 for the Conservation Fund as previously discussed and Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Devins asked how the Commission would justify the request to the town. She said the Commission requested last year. She said the Ripley purchase would draw down the fund and the request would boost the fund. She said the remainder of the purchase price could come from a special request.

Commissioner Gunn asked how often funds were added to the Conservation Fund. Co-Chair Hislop said contributions to the fund came when properties were taken out of current use, but there weren't many large tracks left in town so it was necessary to request funds from the General Fund with a warrant article each year.

Jane Kendall recommended the amount of \$11,401 for the 2017 Conservation Commission budget. Ann Morton seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Co-Chair Hislop commented that the Commission reduced the budget from \$13,000 last year.

4) Other Business:

Co-Chair Hislop announced there was a NH Conservation Commission Association meeting on Saturday, November 5, 2016 somewhere in the middle of the state. She said she thought everyone should have been on their mailing list, but she would leave her postcard with Mr. Coogan if anyone was interested in more information.

Mr. Coogan reviewed recent subdivisions. He discussed the Fabyan Point subdivision. He said subdivisions were more expensive than many property owners realized, and considering the value of property in Newington had gone up, conservation easements also added value to property values, but many people didn't realize that.

5) Invoices and Correspondence:

Ann Morton moved to recommend the payment of \$236 for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Sandy Devins seconded and all were in favor.

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Jane Kendall moved to recommend payment of \$261.25 to Mark West Environmental Services to assess the Ripley's wetlands. Cindy Gunn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Jane Hislop moved to request that the Board of Selectmen transfer funds from Legal, Community Education or the Town Forest budget line to the Consulting budget line to cover the continuing costs on the Ripley easement. Sandy Devins seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Minutes:

*Sandy Devins made a motion to **approve** the Minutes of September 8, 2016. cg seconded and all were in favor.*

Adjournment: *The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.*

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2016

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