

Town of Newington, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 11, 2017

**Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop called the May 11, 2017 meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop; Co-Chair Weiner; Commissioners Sandra Devin; Ann Morton; Bill Murray; Alternate Jane Kendall and Town Planner, Gerald Coogan

**Public Guests:** Christopher Cross

1) Conservation Easements:

- A. Ripley Conservation Easement proposal on their property at 50 Old Post Road, map 17, Lot 15

Town Planner Gerald Coogan said the mitigation funds toward the purchase of the Ripley's conservation easement would not be avail until the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) gave their approval of Eversource's "Seacoast Reliability" transmission expansion project.

Mr. Coogan passed out an email from John Ripley that expressed concern over a requirement to have public access to the easement. Mr. Coogan said some people in town felt there should be public access to easements that were purchased with Town contributions, but he was trying to get the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to advise details on minimal access.

Co-Chair Weiner stated that he had made it clear in all three negotiations that the Ripley's easement would be required to have public access, whereas an easement on the abutting Boynton property would not if the Town purchased the property as they had proposed.

Co-Chair Hislop replied that there needed further clarification because she recalled Tracy Degnan with Rockingham County Conservation District saying she was not sure whether DES would require access. Co-Chair Hislop added that there was public access on the Town owned Saba conservation easement that was on the corner of Fox Point Road and Old Post Road and it was possible to walk the back side of the connecting Hislop property from there, but there was no public access from the frontage of the privately owned Hislop conservation easement that was between the Saba

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 11, 2017

property and the Ripley property. Co-Chair Hislop went on to say that she understood that neither the Hislops nor the Ripleys would want people walking up their private driveway or lawn to gain access to the back easement. She added that the point was to establish a protected wildlife habitat and corridor with the easements.

Mr. Coogan commented that the property was mostly wetlands with limited development potential so it would be said a good deal to keep their property use as it was.

Co-Chair Weiner commented that there wouldn't be any other issues with the easement agreement once this issue was resolved.

### B. Boynton Conservation Easement proposal on their property located at Old Post Road

Mr. Coogan informed the Commission that he and Co-Chair Weiner met with Jeff and Jill Boynton, but Mr. Boynton said he wasn't interested in establishing a conservation easement.

### 2) UNH Granit Mapping Update of Newington Conservation Easements and Wetlands

Mr. Coogan informed the Commission that he had submitted the Baird, Hislop, Saba and Trickey's Cove conservation easement information for updating on Granit mapping service. Mr. Coogan said he was having difficulty obtaining information on Carter's Rock, however.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of Carter's Rock.

Co-Chair Hislop commented that Dottie Watson's father had donated the area to the Town and he had stipulated in the deed that the Town had to maintain it. Co-Chair Weiner said the Town had still not cleared Carter's Rock of the broken-down fire pit or put a sign up as previously discussed. He said he spoke with Board of Selectmen Chair, Jan Stuart two weeks ago and Ms. Stuart said she would go to the Board of Selectmen to request a block of time for the Town crew to clean it up.

Co-Chair Weiner said Ms. Stuart's husband had done the signs at Fox Point and a sign would probably cost \$300-\$500 from the Conservation Budget if the Commission wanted that done.

Commissioner Ann Morton asked about the fence that had been installed by the abutting Pickering family. Co-Chair Weiner replied according to the survey, the Pickering owned half the rock. Commissioner Morton commented that the fence prevented anyone from getting down to the rock. She added that they were also storing their canoes on the Town property as well.

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 11, 2017

Co-Chair Hislop commented that it was important to have a clear sense of the boundary, but the major issue with the area was that Kenny Pickering was illegally filling in the protected shoreline area.

Co-Chair Weiner said the Town should send a letter out to the Pickerings to be sure they were aware of the restrictions on Town property. Commissioner Jane Kendall said she recalled that the Commission had asked that a letter be sent out a couple of years ago and suggested the Board of Selectmen copy the Commission on their letter.

### 3) Conservation Project Discussion on Preserving Newington Apple Species

Co-Chair Weiner informed the Commission that he had received a call to let the Commission know that Rick Stern of Shattuck Way had suggested to the Board of Selectmen that they consider hiring an arborist to take grafts of historic heirloom apples from old town orchards and start a mini orchard at Fox Point for everyone to enjoy especially during September Fest.

Co-Chair Hislop commented that yellow jackets were a problem around apple trees in the fall, but apple blossoms during spring would be a lovely time for a gathering. Commissioner Kendall added that fallen apples would also attract more rodents and deer with tick carrying Lyme disease, however.

Commissioner Sandy Devins asked what would be involved with care and harvest. Commissioner Kendall commented that Denis Hebert had an orchard in town and Chris Cross of Nimble Hill Road agreed that he should be consulted. Co-Chair Hislop added that they could also consult the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

Co-Chair Hislop added that her house was formerly a Pickering family orchard. She said she had an entomologist look at her trees years ago and she was told that the trees had every pest possible and required heavy spraying. Mr. Cross agreed that it took a great deal of time and spraying throughout the growing season to keep pests away.

Commissioner Kendall said many people don't eat apples unless they've been sprayed with pesticides because of blotches and worms, but anyone that wanted to avoid chemical sprays could still use their apples for applesauce or pies.

### 4) Town Planner Correspondence and Updates

Mr. Coogan updated the Commission on the agenda items that were up for consideration before the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Mr. Coogan informed the Commission that Chris Cross was chairing the Master Plan subcommittee and there would be an outreach for input from the public.

Mr. Coogan announced that the United States Air Force would be taking up their fuel tanks and wanted to meet with the Commission on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:00

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 11, 2017

p.m. regarding their large wetlands application. Commissioners Devin and Kendall informed the Commission that they would not be able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Coogan informed the Commission that he had received an email from Lisa Gretchen at UNH who also wanted to meet with the Commission regarding climate change.

Mr. Coogan added that the New Hampshire Climate Summit would be held at the Hugh Gregg Center in Greenland on Thursday, May 25, 2017.

Mr. Coogan also informed the Commission that Eversource was putting 100 acres of their property north of Patterson Lane up for sale. Mr. Cross said there were two parcels up for sale, one was in the waterfront industrial zone and the other was what was formerly known as the Rollins Farm toward the highway by River Road.

Mr. Coogan informed the Commission that the Watson property that ran along Great Bay and abutted the New Hampshire Fish and Game conservation easement off Beane Lane had recently sold their thirty-five-acre lot for 3.2 million dollars.

Commissioner Kendall commented that she was surprised that the property sold to a developer considering there was only a 25-foot-wide right of way through the Young's property and no frontage on a public road. Chris Cross, Vice-Chair of the Planning Board replied that any developer that purchased a lot for that kind of money was sure to have a plan.

Commissioner Kendall commented that she had spoken with Jill McClure at The Nature Conservancy who had looked at the property along with Southeast Land Trust prior to the sale and their survey of the property showed a lot of ledge and wetlands that would limit the number of house lots to five at best. Mr. Cross commented that ledge and wetlands would affect a developer's septic and leach field options and they would also have to keep in mind that the Ordinance now required three acres for condominiums or duplexes.

Co-Chair Hislop stated that there had been a good turnout for UNH Professor Ray Grizzle's discussion on oysters during the annual Spring on the Bay public education event.

### **Elections:**

*Sandy Devins nominated Jane Hislop and Jim Weiner as Co-Chairs. Bill Murray seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

**Minutes:** *Sandy Devins moved to approve the Minutes for the April 13, 2017 meeting. Ann Morton seconded, and all were in favor.*

**Adjournment:** *Co-Chair Hislop moved to adjourn. Co-Chair Weiner seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.*

Town of Newington, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 11, 2017

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
and Thursday, June 8, 2017

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

*These Minutes were approved and adopted at the June 8, 2017 Conservation Commission Meeting.*