

Town of Newington, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 12, 2018

- Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jim Weiner called the July 12, 2018 meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Present:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop; Co-Chair Weiner; Commissioners Liz Durfee; Ann Morton and Jim Tucker; Alternate Jane Kendall and Town Planner, Gerald Coogan
- Absent:** Alternates Sandra Devin and Bill Murray
- Public Guests:** Ken Mavrogeorge, Project Manager with Tighe and Bond; Development Authority; Michael Mates, Engineering Project Manager with Pease Development Authority; Jim Nelson

**1) Landscape Review:** Proposal by **Farley White, Inc.** for a 73,000-square foot, three-story office building to be located at 90 Arboretum Drive at Pease International Tradeport

Town Planner, Gerald Coogan informed the Commission that the Planning Board had accepted the proposal as substantially complete three days earlier.

Ken Mavrogeorge, Project Manager with Tighe and Bond submitted their landscape design and maintenance schedule for the seven acres next to the existing 20-acre development at 100 Arboretum.

Co-Chair Weiner asked if Pease Development Authority (PDA) required a bond to be placed in escrow. Michael Mates, Engineering Project Manager with the PDA replied that he thought there was a clause in their agreement to maintain the grounds.

Mr. Mavrogeorge stated that they had 25%-45% open space with the landscaped boundaries and internal islands where the PDA required a minimum of 25% open space. He added that they were disturbing a small portion of the 100-foot buffer, but outside of the 50-foot buffer.

Co-Chair Weiner noted that they had discussed the tendency for pedestrians not to always follow outside sidewalks so it was suggested to observe cut throughs to create natural paths through landscape.

Town of Newington, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 12, 2018

Co-Chair Hislop recommend that they consider using organic or a slow release 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer.

Alternate Commissioner Jane Kendall asked if recommended that they consider not use Roundup and consider less toxic pesticides and weedicides.

2) Continued Discussion on **Rhizosphaera and Stigmina Needle Cast Diseases**

Co-Chair Weiner stated that he recently observed dying spruce along Route 1A in Maine recently, and he was uncomfortable with the comment that the Town forester shared at last month's meeting that trees might recover from needle cast diseases in three to four years.

Commissioner Kendall responded that the Town forester stated that he wasn't that familiar with needle cast so he couldn't make any more suggestions, but that he would do more research.

Co-Chair Hislop noted that there were three different diseases attacking blue spruce, making it very susceptible. She said the spores that hit blue spruce seemed to hit all ages, including very young trees and it was clear that it was killing trees on lots coming through town as well as those along Newington Road going out to Greenland.

Mr. Coogan commented that some people suggested that it could be helpful to open trees up to the air by pruning the affected limbs, and others suggested a copper based spray. Co-Chair Hislop replied that copper sulfite was a fungicide used on some crops, but she was not sure that it would work on spruce or white pine.

Commissioner Ann Morton commented that she was told that arborists didn't use overall sprays anymore, but sprayed at the base of a tree now. Co-Chair Hislop added that the tree would take in insecticidal treatment systemically by the roots, but again she was not sure that anything had been found to work on these spore diseases yet.

Co-Chair Weiner commented that he was especially concerned with what might happen to the white pine along the Bay and he thought that the Town take some action to inform property owners to keep the disease from spreading. Commissioner Kendall replied that some property owners might want to cut their diseased trees down completely, but others might not because of the financial burden and the Town could only educate and make recommendations, but they couldn't mandate treatment of the trees.

Mr. Coogan commented that it would be nice if the Board of Selectmen could make a policy on how to handle trees with the disease.

Commissioner Tucker said he was told that the disease could be dormant for six months before showing up. He added that commented that experts growing white pine would know the most to protect the success of their investment.

Commissioner Tucker also commented that Norway spruce was known to be more resilient so that could be a recommendation.

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 12, 2018

Commissioner Liz Durfee asked how many people were approaching the Town to indicate awareness. Co-Chair Weiner replied that he thought there were very few. Co-Chair Hislop suggested that a discussion on the disease and management could be part the Commission's community education talks.

Co-Chair Hislop suggested that the Commission consider making recommendations for alternatives to developers as many landscapers weren't familiar with the and were still putting blue spruce on their landscape plans, including the trees that were planted on Little Bay Road near Newington Transfer Station.

Co-Chair Hislop asked the Commission if they would be interested if she could get a pathologist from U.S. Forest Service to discuss the issue and the Commissioners agreed that it could be helpful.

#### **4) NHDES Major Impact Permit: Request by Jim Nelson for property located at 84 Little Bay Road, Newington, NH, Tax Map #, Lot #**

Property owner, Jim Nelson passed out a narrative with details of his permit request to minimize future erosion of the steep banking heading down to Little Bay. Mr. Nelson stated that his proposal would be identical to abutters John Wendell and Jeff Hiatt and his cove would be used as the access point for their projects as well.

Mr. Nelson noted that Mr. Wendell received his permit recently and that the Hiatts obtained an extension for the permit they received four years earlier. He said the Department of Environmental Services (DES) wouldn't allow him to obtain an expedited permit, but they would work quickly. Mr. Coogan noted that the Hiatt's permit expired on July 8, 2019 and wondered when hope to begin. Mr. Hiatt replied that Mr. Hiatt had lost ten feet from his property in the last eight years and he was interviewing contractors for the work and finding that several were busy and unavailable.

Co-Chair Weiner asked if abutters had been notified of the meeting. Mr. Nelson replied that they were sent a notice that he was applying for a permit, but he was not required to send a notice of the meeting. He added that he would provide a copy of the plan to the abutters and it would be up to them to determine if they were in favor of it or not.

Jane Hislop moved to recommend the Jim Nelson's request for a NHDES Major Impact Permit for property located at 84 Little Bay Road, Newington, NH, Tax Map 15, Lot 2. Ann Morton seconded the motion and all were in favor. 2<sup>nd</sup>. all in favor.

#### **3) Conservation Easements and Mitigation Proposals: Proposal for Conservation Easement on property owned by John and Meg Ripley, located at 50 Old Post Road, Tax Map 17, Lot 15.**

Co-Chair Hislop commented that Eversource's Seacoast Reliability transmission expansion project would be held next month in August 2018. Mr. Coogan commented

Town of Newington, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 12, 2018

that the case would close in September 2018 and a decision would be made in late November or early December 2018. Mr. Coogan suggested that the Commission consider writing another warrant article that wouldn't expire in case the project was delayed further.

**6) Additional Discussions:**

Commissioner Tucker noted that he had observed a pollution warning sign lying on the bank of a fast-flowing creek that he thought might be Pinkham Brook, but was called a drainage ditch on the Town map. Co-Chair Hislop responded that she thought it was drainage from Pease Air Base and the sign was probably a warning of the pollution runoff from de-icing and flame retardant chemicals used on the former Pease Air Force Base runways.

Co-Chair Weiner suggested that Mr. Coogan contact the PDA to investigate. Co-Chair Hislop commented that the sign suggested that the stream was most likely part of Pease testing already, noting that the runway was the third longest in the country and the pollution had contaminated the largest aquifer in New Hampshire. She added that the Town used to get stream reports, but she hadn't been made aware of them for a while.

**Minutes:** *Jim Weiner moved to approve the Minutes for the June 14, 2017 meeting. Liz Durfee seconded the motion, and all were in favor.*

**Adjournment:** *The meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.*

**Next Meeting:** August 13, 2018

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

*These Minutes were approved and adopted at the September 13, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting.*