

Town of Newington, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 13, 2017

Call to Order:	Co-Chair Jane Hislop called the July 13, 2017 meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Present:	Co-Chair Jane Hislop; Co-Chair Weiner; Commissioners Sandra Devin; Ann Morton; Alternate Jane Kendall and Town Planner, Gerald Coogan
Absent:	Bill Murray
Public Guests:	Steve Haight with Civil Works New England; Lisa Graichen, Climate Adaptation Program Coordinator, UNH Cooperative Extension and Christos Tsiamis with Great Bay Waterways

1) **Conservation Easements:** Update on easement proposal for John and Meg Ripley at 50 Old Post Road, Tax Map 17, Lot 15.

Town Planner, Gerald Coogan informed the Commission that he had contacted Town counsel, Attorney John Ratigan regarding requirements for public access according to the criteria for Aquatic Resource Mitigation grants (A.R.M.). He said it was Attorney Ratigan's advise that public access didn't necessarily have to be advertised, but could be allowed with prior consent of the owner. Mr. Coogan stated that the funding that was tied to the Seacoast Reliability transmission expansion project should be approved by the end of year.

Mr. Coogan said he would like to have Attorney Ratigan sign and draft an agreement to show Eversource good faith. He said there would be a meeting on Monday, August 17, 2017 with the Ripleys regarding the agreement.

Co-Chair Weiner asked if there would be any issue with obtaining funds for the remaining balance. Co-Chair Hislop replied that there would be no issue with monies from the Conservation fund, but monies from the warrant article might need to be encumbered so they should check with the Board of Selectmen.

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2) NHDES Permit Requests

- a) Request by Todd Gagliano to install rip-rap at the face and toe of existing sea wall at their property located at 101 Patterson Lane, Tax Map 14, Lot 14.

Steven Haight with Civil Works New England appeared before the Commission with the applicant, Todd Gagliano.

Mr. Haight said Mr. Gagliano needed to add rip-rap in front of his existing retaining wall that had developed a crack and the wall started to move last winter so they wanted to complete this project before this winter. He said they talked with Dave Price and Dori Wiggins and doing an expedited application.

Co-Chair Hislop asked how high the tide came to his home and Mr. Gagliano replied that he never had water on the top of his deck, but water would be in his basement if the wall wasn't there.

Co-Chair Hislop asked what material he would be using and Mr. Haight replied that it was concrete slab. Mr. Haight said larger boulders were used to allow water to enter the void spaces on beaches where there was a lot of action, but they didn't have to worry about that here because the initial wave action was parallel with the land.

Co-Chair Hislop asked if anything else could be done to protect his home in the future as rising sea tides become more of an issue. Mr. Haight said they were putting 12"-18" stone in front to match the slope on the other side.

Commissioner Sandy Devins asked if the water would permeate the stones and Mr. Haight replied that it would so the water would wash in and back out.

Sandy Devins moved to recommend approval of the request by Todd Gagliano to install rip-rap at the face and toe of existing sea wall at their property located at 101 Patterson Lane, Tax Map 14, Lot 14. Ann Morton seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- b) Preliminary Presentation by Great Bay Marine for minor improvements at their site located at 61 Beane Lane, Tax Map 6, Lot 9

Steven Haight with Civil Works New England appeared before the Commission on behalf of Great Bay Marine. Mr. Haight said they wanted to restructure their parking and triple their grass area to beautify their sea of asphalt.

Mr. Haight said they would leave parking for the café at the marina, but would create a drop off area near the docks with pervious pavers. He said they would also create a turnaround area for diesel delivery at the back.

Co-Chair Hislop said some people would complain about not being able to park near the docks. Mr. Haight replied that activity near the docks was cyclical and parking elsewhere would keep the area clear.

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Co-Chair Hislop asked how the pavers would hold up to the winter freeze/thaw and Mr. Haight said it would drain if enough water built up, but they would also have an underdrain.

Mr. Haight said the electric, sewer and water pipe would eventually be upgraded as well.

Mr. Haight said they would do some landscaping as well. Co-Chair Hislop asked if they would remove the roses along the berm. Mr. Haight said they would try to leave them.

Mr. Coogan asked if they were increasing parking for commercial uses and if they needed to go before Planning Board? Mr. Haight replied that they could go before Planning Board, but they were only decreasing the pavement area, repaving and striping to beautify the area.

Mr. Haight asked for landscape suggestions for landscape designer, Robbie Woodburn. Co-Chair Hislop suggested that they put in low shrubs that could withstand winter winds and avoid sugar maples that didn't like salt.

Mr. Haight said he would return when the time came to remove the asphalt.

3) Informational Presentation: New Hampshire Setting SAIL

Lisa Graichan, Climate Adaptation Program Coordinator, UNH Cooperative Extension and Christos Tsiamis with Great Bay Waterways presented a slide show overview covering the background of the New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission that was created in 2013 to determine what risks and vulnerabilities communities would be facing from increased precipitation, storm surges and rising sea-levels and storm from climate change and what recommendations and actions could be taken.

More information is available at www.nhcrhc.org

Ms. Graichen went on to explain that various organizational partners received a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) to create New Hampshire Setting SAIL (Science, Assessment, Implementation and Legislation) to support the State and municipalities through educational outreach and technical assistance.

Mr. Tsiamis with Great Bay Waterways said their goal as a partner was educational outreach to communities around Great Bay. Ms. Graichen said they provided municipal assistance to ten communities around Great Bay who were eligible for small grants and climate workshops. She noted that Newington and Dover were working on an adaption for their master plans.

Ms. Graichen said they coordinated with the State regarding assessment and implementation of risks and vulnerabilities to the natural resources, heritage, built landscape and economy. She said currently they were focusing on protecting natural resources such as coastlines, trails, and public spaces inland from storm damage,

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flooding and erosion, but there was also a concern for how climate change would increase invasive species, pests and diseases. She added that last year's drought and water restrictions also had implications to farming and increased wildfire risks.

Ms. Graichen reviewed actions that conservation commissions could consider.

- 1) Encourage landowners to preserve beneficial functions of natural features such as wetlands buffers, marsh and shrub wetlands habitats.
UNH Cooperative Extension has beneficial resources
- 2) Control invasive species.
Check on community stewardship network based at UNH.
- 3) Communicate and build public awareness about climate change.
Check with New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup for workshops, world café events, identifying priorities.
Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) has been working with a few towns regarding on establishing a high-water mark that could add sea level rise protections
- 4) Incorporate climate change into municipal documents, natural resources inventory, conservation plan, stewardship plans from UNH Cooperative Extension and regional planning commissions.
Encourage other Boards to reference documentation
- 5) Add climate vulnerability and adaption benefits to land conservation criteria.
RPC produced maps identifying vulnerable conservation and public lands to help target property owners in areas and help strategic planning.
In 2016 The Nature Conservancy identified property around Great Bay that provides land conservation priorities for protection of water resources important for drinking water protection, flood storage and nutrient reduction.

Discussion ensued regarding other actions that might be taken, including management and restoration, upsizing culverts for amphibians and fish, land use planning and regulation, water efficient landscaping, and community education.

Chair Hislop informed Ms. Graichen that the Commission had worked with Julia Peterson at UNH on community education outreach for the last three years with good turnouts. She said she thought erosion around the Bay would be a hot topic for residents with waterfront properties, but also Town owned properties.

Ms. Graichen said they might have partners that could provide recommendations, including shoreline planting recommendations. Co-Chair Weiner commented that the UNH Cooperative Extension published two books, "Living on the Bay" and "Landscaping on the Water's Edge" that were very helpful.

Co-Chair Weiner asked Ms. Graichen if they might have presentations ready that they could share with residents. Ms. Graichen said Mr. Tsiamis was planning workshops. Mr. Tsiamis said he was identifying target audiences, key topics, and pulling

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together speakers for a project all over the New England region, which would be staggered in communities from September to November 2017.

Ms. Devins commented that Durham did a family work day to remove invasive species and educate the community. Ms. Graichen said trail maintenance was another thing that could pull communities together.

Co-Chair Hislop said it would also be helpful to get assistance for grant requests for various projects in town.

Mr. Tsiamis asked if there was a railroad line along the shore in Newington and Co-Chair Hislop said the Pan Am line ran along the Piscataqua River. She said they required a DES permit a couple of years ago.

Co-Chair Hislop added that the Air Force was also removing some old fuel tanks in the area and they would remove all the soil from the property so no contamination would be left behind.

Co-Chair Hislop said specific issues the Commission considered with was shoreline erosion from the current and storm surge at Fox Point and trail maintenance and removal of invasive species at Fox Point and the Town Forest. Co-Chair Weiner commented that some people like himself couldn't assist with trail maintenance because of allergies and poison ivy, but he agreed that a lot of people used the trails in town.

Co-Chair Hislop said the Commission was also looking for funds to clean up an old dump in the Town Forest, which aerial photos indicated had started before 1954 when Pease Air Force Base went in. She said the Commission hire Stonehill Environmental to survey the area, but it still needed to be tested to determine what approach would be best, whether it could be fenced, covered or removed.

Alternate Commissioner, Jane Kendall commented that one of best times to promote interest and support would be at the September Fest at Fox Point each year.

4) Discussions:

a) "Moose Plate" Conservation grants

Mr. Coogan informed the Commission that the State might consider grants from the conservation license plate sales and they could consider projects like trail cleanups or planting tree buffers along McIntyre Road. said looking for projects, cleanups, planting trees at Pease,

Mr. Coogan said he wanted ideas before he talked with Dea Brinker-Wood, the Great Bay Coordinator of moose plate grants

Co-Chair Hislop said another possibility for grants was Great Bay Resource Protection Partnerships.

Co-Chair Hislop also wondered they could put in grant requests for local conservation easements administration, consultant, and legal fees so the Conservation Fund wouldn't be dwindled down and would still be available for other upcoming projects.

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Mr. Coogan said would work a brief narrative up.

5) Updates by Town Planner

Mr. Coogan read through a list of agenda items from the other land use boards.

6) Other Business Discussions:

Co-Chair Hislop stated that she had been contacted by a resident of Gundalow Landing regarding an abutter's expansion of a six-foot right of way through her property to the Bay. She said she suggested they discuss the matter with the Board of Selectmen or Mr. Coogan. Mr. Coogan said it sounded like a civil matter, not a Town matter. Co-Chair Hislop said the thing was that the abutter had been cutting trees and bulldozing down to the water, possibly to put a road in, and she thought the Town should call DES because it was a steep incline, which could cause erosion.

Minutes: *Co-Chair Hislop moved to approve the Minutes for the June 8, 2017 with corrections as noted. Sandy Devins seconded, and all were in favor.*

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2017

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

These Minutes were approved and adopted at the August 10, 2017 Conservation Commission Meeting.