

**Town of Newington, NH**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 28, 2016

- Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jane Hislop called the July 28, 2016 meeting at 6:30 PM.
- Present:** Co-Chair Jim Weiner; Sandy Devins; Alternate, Jane Kendall
- Absent:** Cindy Gunn; Ann Morton; Bill Murray; Interim Planner, Gerald Coogan
- Public Guests:** Tracy Degnan with Rockingham County Conservation District; John and Meg Ripley, Martha Roy, Town Administrator

**1) Conservation Easement Discussion:** Proposal by John and Meg Ripley regarding their property at 50 Old Post Road, Tax Map 17, Lot 15

Tracy Degnan with Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) met with the Commission briefly to review possible sources for funding a conservation easement on John and Meg Ripley's property and stipulations for the funding.

Ms. Degnan commented that the abutting Boynton property would also be a valuable asset to connect the Knight's Brook wildlife corridor from an easement on the Ripley property to the Frink property easement. Alternate Commissioner, Jane Kendall stated that she had suggested the Town planner contact Jill and Jeff Boynton to discuss the possibility of an easement last summer, but she didn't believe anyone had. Town Administrator, Martha Roy said she would make an inquiry on the status.

Discussed ensued regarding wetlands impact mitigation funding from Eversource's Transmission expansion project. Ms. Degnan said Sarah Allen with Normandeau Environmental would attend the next Commission meeting on Thursday, August 11, 2016 to discuss terms on behalf of Eversource.

Ms. Degnan left the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and Meg and John Ripley met with the Commission to continue the discussion on the possibility of an easement on their property.

Mr. Ripley stated that he was not interested in the financial and maintenance requirements of a Natural Resource Conservation Service grant.

Mr. Ripley also discussed the possibility of reducing the size of the easement from ten acres to five acres of wetlands toward the back of the lot. Co-Chair Hislop replied that reducing the area of the easement would eliminate the access that was required for yearly monitoring. Mr. Ripley suggested they might consider a deeded right of way from the Frink or Hislop properties.

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Commissioner Kendall suggested they talk with Ms. Degnan to clarify what would be a permissible distance for access.

Mr. Ripley suggested there might be a possibility to build another house on the remaining five acres of the property. Co-Chair Hislop commented that there might be a lot of building issues with the nearby wetlands. Mr. Ripley replied that he had spoken with former Town Planner, Tom Morgan who thought they would meet frontage requirements and might be able to build on the uplands area. Co-Chair Weiner responded that there was a 200-foot frontage requirement and the Town no longer allowed shared driveways. He recommended that Mr. Ripley discuss the matter further with Mr. Coogan to be sure the driveway would meet the 50 foot wetlands setback requirement. Ms. Roy informed Mr. Ripley that Mr. Coogan was usually in the office on Monday and Tuesdays and to call to set up an appointment.

Mr. Ripley asked the Commissioners what they thought would happen if they didn't proceed with the easement for another few years. Co-Chair Hislop said they would need a new appraisal to determine the value in the current market.

Commissioner Kendall added that they would have to start over in applying for funding sources as well. Co-Chair Hislop went on to say that they should also take advantage of the mitigation from Eversource to keep the funds in Newington. She said Planning Board Chair, Denis Hebert had talked with Eversource and he was convinced that they were willing to pay the wetlands impact mitigation funds directly to a project in Newington instead of adding to the A.R.M.s funds for the erosion and watershed restoration that would be shared with Durham and Portsmouth so long as the project met the A.R.M.s funding criteria.

Mr. Ripley said he thought the deadline for the A.R.M.s funding was coming up soon in August. Commissioner Kendall said that was the deadline for the A.R.M.s funding, but Eversource agreed that they could pay directly which extended the time frame

Co-Chair Hislop said the warrant article for funding would need to be written by December 2016 for the March 2017 Town Meeting.

Mr. Ripley asked how long she thought it could take and Co-Chair Hislop replied that it could be two to three years before all the funding and easement agreements were all in place. Commissioner Kendall suggested they consider what kinds of access and restrictions they would want on their easement.

**Adjournment:**        *The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:**        Monday, August 11, 2016

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

*These Minutes were approved and adopted at the August 11, 2016 Conservation Commission Meeting.*