

Barrington Conservation Commission
September 15, 2014
Barrington Elementary School Annex, Professional Development Center

SPECIAL MEETING TO ADDRESS PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Ken Grossman
John Wallace, Chair
Pam Failing, Vice-Chair
Anne Melvin
Marika Wilde

CALL TO ORDER The discussion began at 7:10.

The discussion began with how to educate the public at large, and the Planning Board in particular, about the functions and values of wetlands and their buffers. We may want to publicize information about this from a study done at U Mass Amherst, or possibly refer them to the appropriate section of Barrington's Natural Resource Inventory.

Getting down to the 'nitty-gritty' of proposed changes to the zoning ordinance, a discussion took place on how to best incorporate the point system for rating wetland functions and values from Kingston's ordinance into Barrington's zoning to permit impacts to wetland buffers. It was decided to use the 12 functions and values of wetlands that already exist in Barrington's zoning ordinance rather than use the slightly different 8 ones in Kingston's, and to place limits on how close to a wetland an impact may be permitted based on the points. The results of that discussion are in the section of the proposed ordinance attached to these minutes.

John will (has) formalized these into the attached section, and Ken will incorporate them into the overall proposed revisions to section 9 of Barrington's zoning ordinance. These proposals will be considered for submission to the Planning Board at the next regular meeting of the Conservation Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 9.00.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wallace

Attachment

In granting a special use permit, the extent to which the PB may reduce the wetland buffer shall be determined on the basis of functional values for the subject wetland and its buffer as determined by a certified wetland scientist.

Points are to be assigned for the wetland and its buffer using the following scale:

Scenic and aesthetic use	1 point
Flood water storage, flood water conveyance	2 points
Groundwater recharge and discharge	2 points
Erosion control, wave attenuation	3 points
Wildlife habitat, food chain support, wetland plant habitat	3 points
Aquatic habitat, fisheries	3 points
Water quality protection	4 points

The extent to which the PB may reduce the wetland buffer is to be determined by the following table:

Points	Minimum distance to wetland
0-5	20 feet
6-10	30 feet
11-15	40 feet
≥16	Buffer may not be reduced

In the following situations the PB shall not permit reductions to the wetland buffer:

- Prime wetlands
- Vernal pools
- Critical habitats (as defined by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department)