

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 8, 2012 at 5:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Ruth Bleyler, Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Doug McIlroy (Vice Chair), Alan Saucier

Alternates: Jim Kennedy

Staff: Jonathan Edwards, Vicki Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

1. CURRENT BUSINESS

Hayes Land Re-Zoning Discussion

Jonathan Edwards recommended the Conservation Commission request the Planning Board consider re-zoning the Hayes land from RR to NP and merge the four acre parcel with the Trescott Ridge Preservation Land (zoned NP). Doug McIlroy suggested the Conservation Commission also request the Planning Board consider re-zoning the Rinker Tract from RR to NP and merge the property with the Steele Tract (zoned NP). Doug McIlroy moved to request the re-zoning of the Hayes and Rinker Properties; Jim Kennedy seconded the motion; unanimous approval by the committee to request the zoning changes and property mergers.

2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Diamond Wetland Application

Patrick St. Pierre, General Contractor, presented a brief summary of the application and changes made to the application as per Conservation Commission comments at the site visit. He reiterated that the proposed 'sta-pack' paved driveway will impact wetlands at the ditch line at the Orchard Road intersection and at the crossing of an intermittent stream at approximately the midpoint of the proposed driveway. As per Conservation Commission site visit comments, he presented a plan showing a shortened culvert at the Orchard Road ditch crossing and a 36" dia. culvert with 12" embedment at the narrowest crossing point of the intermittent stream. He pointed out the inclusion of a roadside swale along the uphill side of the driveway leading to the culvert crossing and that the swale will have appropriate check dams along its length as required. He also cited that silt fencing will be installed as required and detailed in the drawings submitted. He also agreed, following commission prompting, to maintain the check dams and silt fencing during establishment of roadside growth. Vicki Smith requested Mr. St. Pierre remove all check dams and silt fencing following establishment of vegetation. Mr. Pierre summarized wetland impacts (calculations based on plan submitted) as: approximately 1000 sq. ft. wetlands; approximately 1736 sq. ft. 25'

buffer zone; approximately 4933 sq. ft. 75' buffer zone. Jim Kennedy requested the applicant provide 5"- 7" dia. gravel stone aprons at the exposed ends of the culvert at the intermittent stream to aesthetically mitigate the exposed crushed rock base. Jim Kennedy also requested at the cut section at the steep slope along the driveway swale to provide appropriate protection and dispersion measures for Conservation Commission review and approval. Vicki Smith will add this to the list of Conservation Commission Conditions of Approval. Mr. St. Pierre confirmed DPW's approval of the driveway access off of Orchard Road. It was agreed by Mr. St. Pierre, the drawings will be revised as per Conservation Commission comments and conditions. Jim Kennedy moved to approve the application with appropriate changes to the drawings including: timely removal of the temporary facilities; the placement of washed gravel stone aprons at the culvert ends at the intermittent stream; driveway swale at the steep slope at the cut modified to mitigate and disperse drainage to Conservation Commission satisfaction. Alan Saucier seconded the motion; unanimous approval by the commission.

Note: It was agreed revised drawings reflecting changes to be reviewed, approved and signed by the Conservation Commission Chairman prior to Zoning Board of Appeal Hearing.

Morse Property Application

Jim Kennedy recused himself and presented a summary of the application including changes to the plans / application as per Conservation Commission comments received at the site visit. Mr. Kennedy noted changes made to the plan including: construction sequencing notes added; building envelope moved to within 25' of the adjacent property line as allowed by the Zoning Ordinance to increase setback from wetlands and buffers (as suggested by Vicki Smith at the site visit); conceptual building footprints added within the building envelope; 125' wetlands setback line added to the plan. Mr. Kennedy stated that the revised plan reflects a proposed building envelope that minimizes impacts on wetlands and the existing agricultural usage of the property (hayfield). Vicki Smith suggested Mr. Morse consider the option of subdividing the property creating a 3 acre RR lot with a conservation easement created on the remaining parcel in consideration of owner costs and possible financial assistance by the town (stewardship fund). Doug McIlroy moved to approve the application; Ruth Bleyler seconded the motion; unanimous commission approval with one abstention.

Fletcher Passow Project Presentation

Fletcher Passow presented a summary report of his Boy Scout Project – Invasive Plant Removals on the Hayes Property in Etna. He noted his total costs were \$87.00 for volunteer supplies and refreshments. Vicki Smith asked Fletcher to submit invoices / receipts for the Town to reimburse him. It was agreed a winter bonfire event would be an appropriate opportunity to rid the site of brush piles made during the removal work. It was agreed the Town would acquire the burn permit and Fletcher would be given the opportunity to speak at the event to present his project. Fletcher agreed to provide an outline on "how to's" to organize similar invasive removal events. Doug McIlroy noted the presence of Purple Loosestrife by the road on the property and offered to remove the plants with Barbara. Following Fletcher's departure from the meeting, Ed Chamberlain offered to write a letter of Thank You to him. The committee was in full agreement.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Monthly meeting minute scribes TBA.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Biodiversity Committee

Vicki Smith discussed Rinker - Steele Property invasive removal project. Her suggested revisions to the Boy Scout Project summary included: the addition of a map indicating priority areas to attack; section on first aid accommodations; parking plan. Vicki also mentioned there is community interest in scheduling clean up days along the Mink Brook corridor in cooperation with other organizations and neighbors. Commission was agreeable.

Open Space Committee - No updates.

Trails Committee

Doug McIlroy mentioned the new signs are ready for installation at the Rinker – Steele Tract. Doug will locate a source for the posts and coordinate signage content (decals). He noted cost of the decals will be dependent on the quantity of icons needed to convey the appropriate messages on the signs.

Trescott Board - Nothing to report.

- 5. MINUTES:** Revisions to the July meeting minutes to be sent to Vicki Smith for approval of minutes at the September meeting. August 6th site visit meeting minutes: Ruth Bleyler motioned to approve; Ed Chamberlain seconded; unanimous commission vote with one abstention

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Jonathan Edwards notified the commission of his anticipated retirement on December 31, 2012.

- 7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Saucier, Commission Member