

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
December 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Mellert, Christie, Chamberlain, Kennedy, Trummel, Mlacak (Mayor and Spaulding joined after meeting start)

Staff: Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

1. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. November minutes required no changes. A move to accept them was made by Mr. Christie, seconded by Mr. Mellert and unanimously approved.
2. Rabinowitz bridge project (represented by Scott Williams (Pathways Consulting), Dodi Perkins (land owner) and Eric Goldthwarg (lawyer)). The site visit minutes were reviewed. Several points made on the site visit were discussed by Mr. Williams. The stream has been classified as an intermittent stream by the applicant but the HCC felt it more likely to be a perennial stream. Rationale for intermittent by the applicant—the UNH official map delineation is intermittent, previous site visits by Pathways supports intermittent designation and the difference between two is minimal on DES regs. To make a more official determination would need long term monitoring. HCC felt that the amount of watershed impact was underestimated. Mr. Williams believed the project is exempt based on the stated exemption in state regs 901.03 and 303.04z. The applicant is asking for an exemption from stream crossing rules based on these regs. The project has 461 acres of watershed involved. The HCC felt the impact should include the abutment square footage. The block foundation and fill are not included in square footage impacts. Mr. Williams stated that Pathways does not usually count square footage past abutments (which is their interpretation of the rules) but if abutments were included it would add 48 sq feet to project and not materially change the results as the overall project is well less than 3000 sq feet no matter how it is calculated. Mr. Williams' final point is that if they get the exemption from state regs, they do not need to meet UNH stream crossing guidelines. Mr. Kennedy expressed disagreement with these statements and pointed out that 903.03 states all stream crossings must adhere to section 903 and 904. Mr. Williams felt that the project is exempt and therefore need not adhere to 903 and 904. If DES rejects application for exemption, then these sections would be applicable. (Mayor came into meeting at this point 19:27). Mr. Kennedy recused himself from considering the application at this time. Ms. Smith stated the HCC is here to view the project and send comments to DES and ZBA. Mr. Christie wanted to make sure that the HCC determines whether the project was done well as is or should we recommend that something else be done. Ms. Smith wanted to know if the bridge is functional and if it impacts aquatic life. The committee decided to send a statement to DES stating that the stream may be perennial (not intermittent as stated in the application)

- and that if an exemption is not granted then further information should be required from the applicant. A motion was made to do this by Mr. Trummel, seconded by Mr. Christie and unanimously approved.
3. 2 Goodfellow Rd bridge application (Mr. Kennedy rejoined the meeting at this point). After the site visit, the applicant withdrew the review for this month. However, as the application to DES has already been submitted and comments need to be done within 40 days, the minutes of the site visit were reviewed. (Mr. Spaulding joined the meeting at 20:02). Mr. Kennedy stated that the present plans are deficient to assess the impact of the stream crossing and have not shown the least impacting alternative. In addition, the structure seems excessively large for the project and may have significant impacts to waterway. Mr. Spaulding made a motion to send these comments to DES, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved. A motion to accept the amended minutes for the site visit was made by Mr. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Mellert and unanimously.

2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

1. Budget planning—Ms. Smith opened for discussion the budget goals for next year and what items we would like to include in our budget request. She opened this discussion with a presentation of some items brought up at the last stewardship committee meeting including:
 1. Hayes farm (\$1500 invasive mgmt, \$250 for seed and \$250 for plant material).
 2. Trail work (\$1000 to include work on the Ridge trail, Marshall Pressey, east Moose Mountain and Slade Brook).
 3. A boardwalk on the trail from Woodcock Rd to King sanctuary over the wetlands.
 4. Fencing to protect lillies at Hayes farm.
 5. Improved crossing to the Rinker Steele tract across route 10 for Kendall residents.
2. Mr. Christie pointed out that there will be a potential future revenue stream in the budget after the Wilson's landing project is complete (which is now in the budget for 2016).
3. Other potential budgetary needs include Trescott Water Company land trail development, further work at Wilson's landing and multiple trail work projects (around 60 items have been identified by the trails committee) that need various amounts of money. In addition, the trails committee would like to increase the use of the UVTA (John Taylor) by 20%.
4. A generic discussion of projects for which grants may be available and how this would impact budget requests was entertained. For budget requests, the HCC should be selective based on amount of work we think we can actually get done given our resources and volunteers.

3. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 21:06.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Trummel, alternate commissioner