

**Hooksett Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2009**

Call Meeting to Order: 6:12pm

Attendance: Steve Couture Vice-Chair, Cindy Robertson Member, James Walter Member, Phil Fitanides Alt-Member, David Ross Town Council Rep arrived at 7:00pm, Tim Johnson Chair excused, David Hess Member excused

Approval of Minutes:

James Walter motioned to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2009 Cindy Robertson seconded by voted unanimously.

Public Input: None

Appointments:

Blue Moon Environmental – Vernal Pool Mapping – Nancy Randell

Nancy Randell – Tonight we are going to review what vernal pools are and discuss what key species can be found in them. We will review the Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles. This is set up to be training manual. But I thought it would be good to use as a reference tool. The importance of a vernal pool is that it does dry at some point. Maybe not every year but a species would not be able to survive in it. A wood frog is a vernal pool indicator along with a spotted salamander.

Recognizing that vernal pools are wetlands with a seasonal cycle of flooding and drying is important. Vernal pools do not have a permanent source of water which is way fish would not be able to survive. Hooksett has a high percentage of vernal pools. I wanted to offer the conservation commission if they are interested in some field training.

On the map there are 48 known vernal pool areas. This is based actual field documentation in regards to the vernal pools. I have been using the 1998 ortho photos in my research along with the DRGs. I then used the 2005 photos that were harder to interpret but I added and subtracted items. There are 353 vernal pool locations on this map. I came up with 18 parcels that are high priority.

Public Hearing Re: Purchase of Land – Clay Pond and Pinnacle

Called Public Hearing to order at 7:02pm no public comment was heard closed public hearing at 7:03pm

David Rose motioned to reaffirm in public a vote of support to purchase both the Clay Pond and Pinnacle properties seconded by Cindy Robertson voted unanimously.

Manchester Water Works – John O’Neil

I am water shed forester by trade but I am pretty much the land steward for Manchester Water Works. We do have a forestry management plan. Although we have not done a complete forestry report in about 20 years and I plan on working on that in the future. I am really here to just introduce myself. There is a potential source water project along the Merrimack River. We are in the preliminary plan that I wanted you to be aware of. More detail will be forth coming once the water quality tests have been completed. We own a piece of land along the river. This project is all subsurface.

Steve Couture – As you go along with your forestry management we would be interested as you go and keep us updated. If you have an opportunity in regards to vernal pools on your property we would be interested in that also.

Jim O’Neil – I can forward you a copy of our forestry management plan.

Ravenwood Subdivision – Steve Keach, Keach Nordstrom

Steve Keach – We are here to pretty much wrap this project up. This is for a residential development. Some time ago we went through the process of the special exception for the wetland crossing. The permit was issued on December 26. Then we also received a letter from the Army Corps of Engineering on January 23. We are here to speak with you with the advisement of the Town Planner. At one point we were proposing 43 lots. Now we are proposing 133 acres is the total area. The open space increased to 70 acres. The Town Planer also suggested taking any excess land and adding it to the open space. We are going back to the Planning Board for final approval on this project and we are here to give you the chance for any final thoughts or questions.

Phil Fitanides – What is the final number of homes?

Steve Keach – 39 homes.

Steve Couture – Are you in discussion with the town on the number of lots?

Dennis Demers – There was a discussion when we had a larger number of lots. But this is the final number after all of the input from the TRC and the Town Planner.

Steve Couture - Do you have all of your permits? Has the town signed off on the storm water plan?

Steve Keach – We are just working the final clean up issues.

Steve Couture – What type of BP’s are you using?

Steve Keach – We are bound to your subdivision regulations as they are written. This roadway is also an open drainage roadway. As an example there is a detention pond over here where the water is treated and released. The storm water will be conducive to the phase. We are using the classic DES regulations prior to the DES changes.

Dennis Demers – In regards to open space there will be an Association that will consist of the homeowners who will be taking care of it. As you know there is timber value on the open space. There should be some type of plan for the land. This is something maybe the commission and the boards should consider down the road.

Steve Keach – This was the Town Planner’s idea for us to come and update. We would just like some type of communication with the Planning Department that says we were here and that you are all set with the plan and any changes that have been made.

Steve Couture – A few points of recommendation (1) the two lots with a high quality habitat, (2) Storm water –does not impact the head water to Dalton Brook. No increase to peak and value to the head water during all storm events.

David Ross motioned to send the recommendations to the planning board seconded by James Walter voted unanimously

Village Water – Joe Hebert

Rescheduled to April 1, 2009

Quality Drive – Deb Brewster, TF Moran

Rescheduled to April 1, 2009

Commission Reports:

1. **Open Space Subcommittee** – David Hess - I received an appraisal and have forwarded it to the property owner. On the other parcel that we are interested in and I have no heard from the property owner. I will be calling her.
2. **Kiwanis Trails Initiative** – James Walter – They are moving forward.
3. **SNHPC Deed Research** – The project is complete. Hopefully the entire report will be available on the SNHPC website in the month or so.
4. **Coastal Partners Easement** - Phil Fitnaides motioned to send a letter to the Town Council in regards to Coastal Partners easement components are not being followed Cindy Robertson seconded. Voted unanimously

Correspondence:

All correspondence was reviewed

Ridgeback Self Storage – David Ross motioned to send letter to DES that we are opposed to the project do not recommend the permit application due to the fact we have requested the applicant to come before us multiple times and the applicant has not come before us to date Cindy Robertson seconded voted unanimously

Other:

1. **CTAP Open Space Planning Program** – Submitting the application on 3/5/09.

Non Public – RSA 91-A: 3, II, d

David Motioned to enter into non public RSA 91-A: 3, II, d seconded by James Walter voted unanimously

David Hess motioned Cindy Robertson seconded to exit non public session

Adjournment: Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn James Walter seconded 8:55pm voted unanimously