

**Hooksett Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2010**

Call Meeting to Order: 7:00pm

Attendance: David Ross, Town Council Rep, Cindy Robertson, member, James Walter, member, John Turbyne, alt-member, David Hess, member excused, Tim Johnson chair excused, Phil Fitanides alt-member

Public Input: N/A

Meeting Minutes: David Ross motioned to table the meeting minutes from February 3, 2010 and February 10, 2010, Phil Fitanides seconded voted unanimously.

Appointments:

SNHU – Wetland Crossing – Jeff Kevan TF Moran

Jeff Kevan – This is the main drive in with the athletic fields. We want to use the main drive and put an operations building a little further back as to not use the frontage for possible future growth. There was a previous approval for a wetlands crossing.

What we are looking at is crossing at the same exact spot as was previously approved. The lot is part of this one large parcel. We are looking to build a 26700 sq ft operations building as well as parking for the employees with a garage area. We will be installing all underground utilities. We will be using a private septic. There will be 3000q ft of wetland impact with 6700 sq ft of buffer area.

Phil – What is the water table under the building?

Jeff Kevan– The test pit under the building went about 50ft. The test pit was checked today.

We filed a change in the wetlands process. We will be filing a new wetlands permit. We would like whatever input that you have. This was already approved for 2 24' pipes. All of our operations will be out of this building so that this will be wet basins and water garden bio retention areas.

Phil – To your know ledge has this area ever flooded?

Jeff Kevan- It wouldn't get up to here but I am sure that the wetlands would hold some water. There is a pretty good grade change right here. It is a 14foot grade change between the building spot and the wetlands.

Phil – Did they do a compaction test on that area yet?

Jeff Kevan – No

David Ross – That is an area of wildlife and running two pipes appears that you would be blocking a corridor for the wildlife. My concern is that everything here would be heading this way.

Jeff Kevan – You are at a high point here. What happens once you get to the highway? Is there a tunnel for them at the highway?

David Ross– I believe it runs traverse to the highway and then empties into the river. My concern is that you might be creating a barrier for the wildlife from the high point to the low point.

John Turbyne – Was there a structure there before?

Jeff Kevan – No there is a small building in there but not a larger one.

David Ross– I would like to see something that says it does not impact the wildlife. I would feel more comfortable with some type of answer.

John Turbyne – How much would it cost to put in an open ended bridge?

Jeff Kevan– It depends on how large of an opening that you are thinking of? I can have my guy look at it to see if this is actually a corridor and get some answers. There are a number of opinions. I will talk to my wetlands and wildlife scientist and find out the answers to your questions.

Phil Fitanides– Once you take away all of the forest and vegetation what are your plans with water.

Jeff Kevan– In our alteration of Terrain Permit we will be addressing all of those concerns.

David Ross– I would be assuming all of your storm water plans have been taken care of snow storage, wild life, one floor drain that will drain to an underground storage tank and then have a private company removing that.

Phil Fitanides– Will this be an area for fertilizer and other such landscaping materials?

Jeff Kevan– We would put our sand salt in this covered area and then the others would be in bags not bulk but would be in these covered storage areas over here.

Walgreen Conservation Easement – Herb Carter

Herb Carter – I am the son of Russell and Ann Carter they bought the land and built a motel and in back had a sand pit. They ended up making it a pond for the town to enjoy. When we sold the land to Walgreens in the agreement they supposed to continue using this for a park. Everything is over grown now. When I sold the land the town had walked the property and told me they would build a park. I was going to develop it but I chose to give it to the town. Now this is over grown and people are throwing things back there and dumping back there. We would like to see a park developed. This is exactly what we would like to see. I don't think that you have that much land in that area for just a park. The back area now is a swamp. Even when we closed the motel we still maintained it then we sold it and then someone dropped the ball.

Dale Hemeon – A little background is that when the state took that part back the plans for the park got lost.

Jim Walter – The fire department wanted this area for the pump trucks to fill.

Herb Carter – This is a spring feed pond and we continued to maintain the property. We continued to do this for the town's people and we are extremely disappointed that nothing was ever done.

Dale Hemeon – Who is responsible for that now?

David Ross – That is now a retention pond.

Herb Carter - There was not supposed to be any contaminates into that pond.

David Ross – I am extremely unhappy with how coastal partners is maintaining their property.

Herb Carter – I am extremely disappointed that this has not happened.

Jim Walter – There was supposed to be a park I remember

Cindy Robertson – Dale what would it take to make it a park?

Dale Hemeon – I don't know. I haven't even been down there for a while but I don't know if we could even put fish into that pond.

David Ross – I understand where you are coming from. Do I think this is something that is going to happen soon I would say no. There is close to three parties that are about to do battle over certain portions of that property.

Dale Hemeon – Is that ever going to get resolved between conservation and coastal partners.

David Ross - I am hoping it will in the near future.

Herb Carter – We always maintained it and that is what my father wanted. It is very upsetting to see it the way it is today. It is extremely upsetting that no one can use it.

Dale Hemeon – There is a lot of potential there. This used to be beautiful place that people would stop at before heading up north.

Phil Fitanides – When this water was there what was holding it back?

Herb Carter – This is spring feed.

Dale Hemeon – Site walk with P&R Advisory Board and the conservation commission would be a good idea as to what could possibly be done.

Clay Pond Management Plan – Dan Kern, Bear Paw

Dan Kern – We are still trying to get money out of the last few grantors. The money that we received from DES needs to have an agreement like the one for the LCHIP funding. I need the commission to agree to enter into the agreement so that the town council can sign the agreement and we can get it over to DES. This would be last part to receive the \$200,000 that we are waiting for.

David Ross motioned to accept and move into the project agreement with Bear Paw, Town Council and DES Jim Walter seconded voted unanimously

One other source of funding is \$30,000 from the drinking water grant. The problem with these is that they must go to the governor and executive council so they like to have all of the t's crossed.

I also wanted to remind you guys of the stewardship plan that needs to be in place for this property. Basically the town needs to come up with a management plan for the easement. Generally it includes hiring a professional to write your plan. This should cover all of the plans for your easement such as forestry, possible trails if that is something that you would want.

Some of this could be done through the volunteers that are already in the process.

All of the grants were contingent upon acquisition. Once the acquisition is complete then it is at your discretion.

The restrictions in the conservation easement are going to be enforced by Bear Paw but the town will be responsible for monitoring.

Commission Reports:

1. **Open Space Subcommittee** – N/A

Correspondence:

All correspondence was reviewed

Other:

1. **Invoices** – James Walter motioned to pay \$51.20 to the SNHPC for Land Use books David Ross seconded voted unanimously
2. **CTAP Subcommittee** – Met on 3/30/10 we began the process of which are the most important areas as to what to protect. Once this process is complete it would be an update to the Open Space Plan.
3. **Meeting Night Change** – Contact all members to see about changing meeting to Tuesday nights.
4. **Austin Woods Conservation Easement** – Re: Steve comments and forward comments to Donna. Have someone who can look at the conservation easement for the commission before agreeing to it.

Non Public – RSA 91-A: 3, II, d

David Ross motion to enter into non-public session Jim Walter seconded voted unanimously

Jim Walter motioned to exit non-public Phil Fitanides seconded voted unanimously

Jim Walter motioned to adjourn at 8:30pm John Turbyne seconded voted unanimously