

**Hooksett Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2012**

Call Meeting to Order: 6:00pm

Attendance: Jim Walter-member, Cindy Robertson-member, Steve Couture-vice chair, Todd Lizotte-Town Council Rep, Tim Johnson-chair excused, Bob Steiner member excused, Phil Fitanides member, David Hess-member, Frank Kotowski-Planning Board Rep

Public Input: none

Meeting Minutes: Jim Walter motioned to approve the minutes January 3, 2012, Cindy Robertson seconded voted unanimously.

Appointments:

Diesel Direct – John McGonagle

The commission spoke with the Code Enforcement Officer and there are no issues with the Ground Water Ordinance.

Commission Consensus is to send a letter to Dr. Shankle, Jo Ann Duffy, Mike Williams that there no issues with this and recommend moving forward.

VHB – Merrimack Riverfront Project – Peter Walker, Nancy Rendall

We are talking about the Merrimack Riverfront Project. The grant pre proposal application is due by the beginning of April. As of today we have completed the field work and have provided two maps for your review. We do have handouts tonight as well.

Nancy Rendall – This spreadsheet we will run through with the proposed condition plan. This is a summary of the watershed ledger. It shows what has been lost and what will need to be done to assist in the reconditioning. Finally here is a scoring sheet for the pre proposal application. I have already completed a draft for this evening for you to review. This is a way to show what still has to be completed.

I have lumped together some areas as they are adjacent on the map. Area 1A, 1B 1C, is to restore soils in this area. This area at the top that slopes has a lot of active erosion that would need to be stabilized. One of the issues is how to get heavy equipment in there and we found along the gas pipe line would be the easiest way. There are also several failed culverts along the pipe line as they would need to be repaired as well. Depending on what the permit conditions are we would need access for an additional 5 years to make any repairs that may be necessary.

In this area we would be recommending to close this road over here as we would not want to create any more disturbances.

We may try to access this parcel off of Pleasant Street as we will be getting a right of way access. But after the rail road the roadway does need some work. We would still need to work with the gas pipe line company to fix these culverts as they are completely failing.

Area 2 is looking at everything to do with the prime wetland. We are proposing to stop mowing in an area over here and plant some seed and let it grow naturally. The committee was supportive of agriculture so that is also something to keep in mind. Something else to keep in mind is that prime wetland buffers are worth points. A 100 foot buffer is the highest score.

There are some pretty wet areas in the fields and they are providing some additional buffers to the prime wetland. As of today there is no public use site for this area. There may be a problem if the eagles build a nest in this area.

Area 4A is the corn field and you would want to consider developing some buffers. We would need to get a buffer at least along the wetlands.

Area 5A I thought would be the best area to establish a small gravel parking area and since a trail exists right here this would give public access to a nice area over here.

This is the summary of the proposed measurers.

Peter Walker – What we have gathered to date gives us plenty of information to put the pre proposal together. We are here for guidance in a few areas.

Nancy Rendall – I put on my ARM hat and did some scoring on the low end it comes up to 37-45 which I believe will not get funding. I believe all the big players will be submitting grants applications this time around due to the money that is available. The recommendations that we have made I believe will give you the most points. I believe the highest you can receive is 74. I believe this is the best restoration plan.

I don't believe it is necessary to let everything grow in it is a beautiful place by the river.

- 1A – Restore wetland in ATV Area – Yes move forward
- 1B – Possible additional flood storage to connect to Prime Wetland; but only if invasive species are present now – Yes move forward
- 1C – Restore upland forest & stabilize erosion -Yes move forward
- 1D – Restore existing woods road & Stabilize –Yes move forward
- 2A – Restore mowed wetland area adjacent to Prime Wetland – Conditional Yes
- 2B – Restore floodplain forest adjacent to Prime Wetland – Conditional Yes
- 2C - Remove road and culvert along Prime Wetland by proposed restoration area – Trasel Bridge repair or cover – Conditional Yes
- 2D – Remove culvert and fill where Prime Wetland has been ditched to flow to wetland 19 – Yes move forward
- 2E – Evaluate channel hydrology & potential impacts to Prime Wetland if ditch plug is installed and restore natural flow paths in Prime Wetland– Depends on Hydrolic Study – Yes is says it is fine

- 3A – Remove trailer and restore riparian buffer adjacent to Merrimack and Brown’s Brook – Yes move forward
- 3B – Maintain a view shed for possible public use – Yes move forward
- 3C – Restore riparian buffer with flood plain forest – Conditional Yes
- 3D – Restore riparian buffer along wetland 19 on three areas – Conditional Yes
- 4A – Restore riparian buffer in corn field – Conditional Yes
- 4B – Restore corn field to flood plain forest. Or consider hay as a crop rather than corn. Or consider no till cropping – Conditional Yes
- 4C – Restore road crossing at Buttonbush Swamp – Conditional Yes
- 5A – Restore upland buffer & create white pine forest – Conditional Yes
- 5B – Trail locations & Parking Access – Conditional Yes
- 6 – Repair stream crossing & stabilize control – Conditional Yes

Peter Walker – We were looking for the approval of the pre proposal application. Then the follow up with the conditional yes’ and we would need answers in the next couple of weeks. I think if you could get the ball rolling then we will blow up a sheet and that way you would have help in your conversation with those parties involved. We are coming to the conclusion that we can complete the pre proposal and the come back to you with the technical report after. We will work on the costs and a pre proposal for you to review. Answers by the 21st or 28th the latest.

Dan Kern – Bear Paw

Reading Corp Conservation Easement Draft I brought it for the commission to review and then we can discuss it. We get to the easement completed and then you will be reimbursed for the purchase of the property. Something you may want to consider talking to your town attorney about access and restricting access. I am thinking that placing two gates on North Candia and one on Hall Mountain Road which would restrict access. We also had wetland restoration plans this may be the time to complete this and we may be able to resubmit the original application. I don’t think we would have to do much in order to resubmit the application. There are also some other areas out on Chester Turnpike that you want to look at if you can get some grants.

Commission Reports:

1. **Quimby Mountain Easement** – Conservation Deed is ready and we will turn it over to the town council for signature. We are submitting these with very vague language with a survey to be forth coming. Fish and Game and Bear Paw would like the cellar hole cleaned up on the property. This area is full of trash. This will need to be completed before Fish & Game signs off. Those are the two requests to have this completed. I have the survey proposals here. T.D. Brouillette proposal came in at \$4800, Krause came in at \$9,950 and McAnnie came in \$10,000. Jim Walter motioned to move forward with a survey to be completed by T.D. Brouillette Land Surveying in the amount of \$4,800 Cindy Robertson seconded voted unanimously
2. **Pinnacle Park Planning – Dan Kern** - The deed restrictions are vague and I don’t think it is anything major is going to occur. There would have to be something major happening that would cause us to get involved. The parking lot plan will be going to Planning Board on Feb 13, 2012.

Correspondence:

All correspondence was reviewed

Other:

1. **Public Access and Trail Development** – Thank you for all of the comments in regards to what I sent everyone. One thing I wanted to bring up was I concentrated on the conservation lands as I know that we are responsible for those. Outside of the conservation lands I am not sure who is responsible for those areas. I can't incorporate things that I do not know about. We of course would like to have all of these areas managed. I also believe in the policy I included proposed green space should be coordinated with the conservation commission.
2. **Invoices** –
 - VHB-Invoice \$2025.00** – Jim Walter motioned to pay out of the current use fund Phil Fitanides seconded by voted unanimously
 - SNHPC Land Use Books \$64.80** – Jim Walter motioned to pay Phil Fitanides seconded by voted unanimously
 - Freneau Appraisal - \$6540.00** – Jim Walter motioned to pay out of the current use fund Phil Fitanides seconded by voted unanimously

Non-public under RSA 91-A: 3, II d

Jim Walter motioned to enter into non-public David Hess seconded voted unanimously

Jim Walter motioned to exit non-public session Cindy Robertson seconded voted unanimously

Adjournment – Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn 8:29pm at Jim Walter seconded voted unanimously