

**Hooksett Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2013**

Call Meeting to Order: 6:00pm

Attendance: David Ross TC Rep, David Hess member, Cindy Robertson vice chair, Phil Fitanides member, JoCarol Woodburn member

Public Input: Bruce Silva – Goonan Road – I have lived here for 7years. I am concerned about the milfoil issue. I have spoken to PSNH about the drawing down of the Merrimack River. This would give residents the opportunity to clean up there beaches. PSNH is not willing to pursue the draw down at this time. I was not sure if the conservation commission would have any power to force PSNH to draw down the river. I was hoping that the conservation commission would look into this situation.

David Hess - The Merrimack River is federal lands. We have been talking with PSNH regarding another issue and we have not heard anything back from them. They are now part of NorthStar and I think the place to go would be DES. They would have some power over PSNH in regards to this issue.

Bruce Silva - If there is anything that the commission thinks of that I could do get this done I would greatly appreciate it. They stopped drawing down the river once they completed the dam replacement at the Amoskeag Falls.

Commission Reports:

1. Merrimack Riverfront Project – David Hess

The signatory for the Town was a question along with the following.

On p2. Total Project cost, including allocation to the Forest Society is entitled to a \$10,500 stewardship fee. I had not recalled the latter and asked if Steve had regarded this and then going over numerous documents this afternoon I did find this information in 3 Grant applications. It is \$3,000 more than the estimate. I believe a large percentage is educating the new representative on this project. I will be speaking to the Forest Society regarding the additional amount. I believe \$475,000 will be closer to the total cost of the project

On the Bailey contingency – As you recall about 1 year ago Barbara Brown did not own the entire corn field as was believed. We had then come to a deal with the actual owner Mr. Baily. There has come to light a \$35,000 mortgage on the property. This is still in limbo but it will be resolved. I told the Forest Society let us know how you want to do it. I said we could either cut it out or they could accept it. I have not heard back from them yet.

On page 3,11 - "camping" on the property – States the public does not have a right to camp on the property but the Grantor has the right to grant camping on the property. It will be stated

that the Grantor has the right to grant camping permission only but not in the wetlands and not along the shoreline.

On pages 6,9 - Last sentence in para. e - p6 and para. C - p9. With respect to trails on the property DES requires continued oversight to the trails. The goal is to make the language as clear as possible. All of the existing trails are grandfathered. DES has the power to approve or deny trails across wetlands or in Special Management Zones along the river front. The parking area on Merrimack Street will connect to the trail which will go directly across wetlands and another is along the river behind the island and the third is possible easterly of the parking area and parallel to Merrimack Street. What I will present to the Forest Society is DES already controls the trails and let them do that.

On pages 5,6 - Delineation of wetlands and Special Management Zone, and Agricultural activity in the Special Management Zone - para. ii - p6, and Para 2.A.i.c. - p5 - Wetlands and Special Management Zone that NAIP any event what we are proposing is that all open space and the corn field will be exempt from that area. The areas that reflect wetlands have been consistently mapped as such. I do not see any problems with that. The one other difference we have carved out for the field next to the Merrimack River the DES and Forest Society have agreed that this area will not be in the Special Management Zone. This is about 200ft of river frontage

On page 9 - Para. C.iv,v Authorized use of motorized vehicles – With respect to the t trails we will have to get approval from DES. And when we do create new trails we must utilize Best Management Practices.

On page 11 - ADA reference in Para. I – Referring to ADA we will be removing that line as it states Power to determine any inconsistent uses by Grantee only, or jointly by Grantor and Grantee? I see no reason why the Forest Society should have a unilateral decision and that it should be something that is agreed on together.

David Hess - These were the only issues that came up on Thursday. You can fish and hunt on this property as I know there were questions.

David Ross – One concern I had was with the camping and granting us with the authority to allow it. We are not an allowing authority.

David Hess – I believe we should allow camping that can occur within certain restrictions.

David Ross – We are getting to an area that is not our area.

David Hess – I would like to have the authority reserved for us and not have someone say that it can never happen.

David Ross – I would be comfortable with some type of wording that states

David Hess – We will be posting the property during hunting season while hunting is occurring.

David Ross Motioned to allow David Hess to move forward in principal with this agreement as has been discussed this evening seconded by Phil Fitanides. **Motion Passes**

- 2. Clay Pond 2013** – Phil Auger, Bear Paw – I wanted to talk to with you about a couple of things. We were approached by DES to try and find a home for some mitigation money. Hooksett has the highest dollar amount in mitigation from PSNH. We found out about it and were asked to find a home for it. We scrambled and approached some property owners in the Clay Pond area and have gotten 3 verbal agreements. The great thing about this is the value of the property is \$1000 an acre and all three property owners are interested in proceeding. This happened really fast. Map 4 Lot 2 is Manchester Sand & Gravel. This will sew up quite a bit of this area. We spent a lot of time trying to get in touch with the property owner for Map 3 Lot 14. For some unknown reason they did not want to deal with us on this property. There is not a lot of extra money needed to complete this deal. As far as ownership we are open to talk about how you would like to do it. We have worked with you a lot and however you envision this is most likely will be how we will go.

David Hess -Would Bear paw have any issue doing the same thing as we did with Clay Pond I and II. Where we hold the title and Bear paw holds the easement. The total land is 140 acres. The town would be responsible for \$52,000.

Phil Auger - We have told DES that it looks like this will happen but we just needed to meet with the conservation commission. This is more of a question of is the commission interested in this.

David Hess – Is it possible for this to wait a month or two?

Phil Auger – If these funds go into ARM then it will most likely go back into this area but then you will have to apply for it.

David Ross motioned to move forward with this project provided that the information that we have seen tonight is reasonable accurate seconded by David Hess. **Motion Passes**

Manchester Sand & Gravel –

David Hess – This entire parcel will be a subsidiary to Bear Paw as this was part of the wetlands agreement with Manchester Sand & Gravel.

Phil Auger – I will have Dan put together a page of information regarding this. I believe more of this is town than just the ROW to the pond.

Correspondence:

All correspondence was reviewed

Other:

1. **Invoices** – Dave Hess motioned to pay the invoice from Mark Dunn in the amount of \$4,416.50 to be paid out of the current use fund seconded by David Ross. **Motion Passes**

Dave Hess motioned to pay the McEneaney invoice in the amount of \$ 2,360.00 to be paid out of the current use fund seconded by Phil Fitanides. **Motion Passes**

Adjournment – Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:22pm seconded David Hess voted unanimously