

Approved: January 6, 2015

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2014, 4:00 PM

Members Present: Bill Stewart (Chair), Lynn McCarthy (Vice Chair), Nancy Gulley, Brian Mack, Jim Rini, Bill Marshall, Sharon Houston

Members Not Present: Beth Hume, Darcy Horgan (Planning Board Liaison), Curt Gillespie

Call meeting to order:

Chair Stewart called the November 4, 2014 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission to order at 4:04 pm.

Approve October, 2014 minutes:

Nancy Gulley MOVED to approve the minutes as amended; this was SECONDED by Brian Mack and APPROVED unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Lavenger Creek Conservation Plan

Chair Stewart noted that he incorporated Jim Rini's comments into the Lavenger Creek Conservation Plan and will flush out a few more of the bullet points. He said that he is also waiting for comments from Frank Richardson (NHDES). Chair Stewart said that Mr. Richardson did comment that there is a second type of grass located in the creek that is not noted in the report and should be. Chair Stewart said this will be added to the Plan (as well as other comments that Mr. Richardson may make). Chair Stewart noted that Mr. Richardson seemed comfortable with the recommendations regarding cutting, structures and the general approach of the Plan. Mr. Richardson also suggested that the Commission think about bringing the Plan into the Town's ordinances under the Wetlands section so the Plan has more weight to it. Chair Stewart asked the members to consider if that should be brought forward as a warrant article after the plan is finalized and reviewed.

Chair Stewart will update the Plan and then distribute it to the members for them to review, discuss at the next meeting and then vote on it; as well as discuss if it should become a warrant article.

Brian Mack asked if the wetland can be classified as a Prime Wetland to have it classified as a more valuable resource.

Chair Stewart said the wetland meets most, but not all of the criteria for a Prime Wetland. He noted that the wetland has the functions and values, but not have the size required to be a Prime Wetland.

2. Islander Article

Chair Stewart noted that the article on fertilizer will be submitted for a spring issue of the Islander Article. He told the members that they are welcomed to write up an article for the Islander if they have an interest.

Jim Rini suggested including an article on guidelines for Green Waste Days (specifically regarding the disposal of bittersweet) for a future issue of the Islander.

New Business:

1. Budget Review

Chair Stewart reviewed the budget with the members noting that he is proposing to submit a budget request that is the same as this year's budget. He noted that the budget includes \$12,000 for Grant Management, \$4,000 for invasive control, \$2500 for Salt Marsh restoration, \$1500 for replanting, \$250 for education and outreach, \$500 for advertising, \$100 for office supplies and a budget for wages and FICA for the note taker. He said the total budget is for \$27,000. He asked the members to send him any request for changes to the budget.

Jim Rini MOVED to approve the budget as outlined by Chair Stewart; this was SECONDED by Nancy Gulley and APPROVED unanimously.

Chair Stewart said if there are any changes to the budget he would bring the budget back for the members to vote on.

Chair Stewart noted that the amount of the Conservation Fund warrant article is \$12,537 (this funding will be used for Lavenger Creek grant matching funds). He reported that the fund currently has a balance of approximately \$58,000 and with the 2016 funding there will be approximately \$70,000 (approximately \$75 to \$80,000 is needed for the Lavenger Creek project).

Brian Mack asked how the rain garden on one of the properties nearby is working.

Chair Stewart said it is working well in moderate rains and the phragmites at that point are not bad; he said that further up at Abigail Road the phragmites are a larger issue. He said more treatment and education is needed.

Announcements

DROPBOX

Chair Stewart reported that in the future all plans will be submitted electronically and stored on Dropbox. He said this will allow the plans to be projected at the Commission meetings to improve viewing. Chair Stewart said he will be setting up electronic files by Street addresses (similar to the method used for the paper folders). He said he discussed this with the Select Board and they were in agreement.

BEACH HILL ROAD RIGHT OF WAY PATH

Chair Stewart reported that he met with Burt Cohen, Margaret Sofio and Frank Richardson to review the identified right of way that was established for the Association members to access the beach through a part of Bill Williams' property (the right of way was penned on the plot plan and deed). Chair Stewart said the right of way runs through the electrical service, proceeds to the beach through a variety of vegetation and low bushes and ends at a rocky outcropping that goes to the sand on the beach. He noted that the path that is currently used is to the right of the right of way and has no vegetation, and ends at a lower outcropping that is easier to access the beach. Chair Stewart said he reviewed the situation from a conservation standpoint and provided input to the Association. He said to use the path that is penned on the deed does not seem as environmentally friendly as the one that is being used currently. Chair

Stewart said using the identified right of way would create erosion issues, would require the need to move the electrical service and the need to build stairs. He said if the path is kept where it currently is, it would be less disruptive. Chair Stewart noted that Mr. Richardson agreed with that recommendation and suggested moving the easement from where it exists on the deed to where the path is currently located.

110 BEACH HILL ROAD

Don Graves reported that the property located at 110 Beach Hill Road is up for auction. He noted that the property currently has a 500 gallon holding tank and that any expansion or improvement to the property would need to go before the Conservation Commission.

Chair Stewart asked if the septic system had failed and if it needs to be tested before it can be sold.

Mr. Graves said that a load and dye test will need to be done to show if the system passes or fails.

The members discussed what would be acceptable on the property and noted that the newer aeration type systems would be an improvement for the property.

Mr. Graves said he will explain when asked that there is newer technology that is friendlier and would be a good choice to use on the property.

Chair Stewart noted that the aeration systems treat a lot, but that nitrogen is still difficult to get out completely. He said that any work done on the property would need to abide by the setbacks (50 feet from the wetland, 100 feet shoreland setback and a minimum of a 75 feet setback for the septic system). He noted that on the back of the property there is a steep slope to the wetland. He said the property is currently non-conforming, so if the proposed plan for the property has it become more conforming and stays out of the 50 foot setback completely and as much of the 100 foot setback as possible, it should be looked upon favorably. Chair Stewart noted that a proposed project should also be mindful of the slope on the property and not create concentrated runoff.

Mr. Graves noted that if the structure on the property is altered or the loading of the septic system is increased; the septic system needs to be 20 years old or newer (which this system is not).

Adjourn

Jim Rini MOVED to adjourn the November 4, 2014 meeting at 4:55 pm; this was SECONDED by Nancy Gulley and APPROVED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Lucius, Secretary to the New Castle Conservation Commission