

APPROVED: February 3, 2015

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA

January 6, 2015, 4:00 PM

Member Present: Bill Stewart, Jim Rini, Nancy Gulley, Rebecca audit, Bill Marshall, Beth Hume

Members Not Present: Brian Mack, Curt Gillespie, Darcy Horgan, Lynn McCarthy, Sharon Houston

Approve November Minutes

Jim Rini made minor changes to the minutes regarding Lavenger Creek.

Nancy Gulley MOVED to accept the amended November 2014 New Castle Conservation Commission minutes; this was SECONDED by Jim Rini and APPROVED unanimously.

Old Business

Lavenger Creek Conservation Plan

Chair Stewart asked the members if they had any comments regarding the Plan. He noted that Dr. Frank Richardson of NH DES would like to include some environmental elements in the plan (including certain grasses).

Bill Stewart moved to adopt the Lavenger Creek conservation plan as written allowing non substantive grammatical changes and ecological changes from Dr. frank Richardson, Director of Seacoast DES; seconded by Jim Rini and approved unanimously.

Chair Stewart said he would send a copy of the plan to the State notifying them of the Conservation Plan and move forward with the Planning Board.

New Business

- Budget Review

Chair Stewart noted that the budget request is the same as last year with \$500 extra for invasive treatment. He also told the members that the Commission needs to submit the warrant article soon; noting that the Trust Fund will have a \$70,000 balance after the 2015 amount is deposited.

- Islander article / Island Items

The members discussed article ideas for spring issues regarding Lawns to Lobsters and the Nitrogen Ordinance.

Chair Stewart said that the next deadline is for the March issue.

Beth Hume said article ideas could be: 1) rain garden or 2) sustainability articles and they would be appropriate for early spring issues.

Rebecca Audet also suggested an article on bees.

Nancy Gulley noted that the rain garden behind the recreation center needs maintenance. The members will speak with DPW about required maintenance for the garden.

The members discussed how they could make the topic of Lawns to Lobsters and the Nitrogen ordinance interesting to readers.

Jim Rini suggested asking Sharon Houston to draw some illustrations for an article.

The members decided to submit articles regarding Lawns to Lobsters and the fertilizer ordinance for the February deadline (April Issue). They would like to do articles on bees and rain gardens for later issues.

- Spring education and outreach initiatives

The members discussed ideas for education outreach. Rebecca Audet will meet with the school to discuss their science curriculum to see what projects would be appropriate.

Announcements

Next month

Great Bay Water Keeper Presentation

Jeff Barnum will be presenting at next month's meeting. Rebecca Audet will check to see if a projector and screen are needed. If so the meeting could be moved to the Macomber Room in the Library if necessary.

Pine Tree Removal on Ocean Drive

Chair Stewart said that next month there will be an agenda item to discuss the request from the Town to remove four pine trees on Ocean Drive (across the street from Fells Street). He reminded the members that the Conservation Commission is the board that reviews tree removal on town land.

Chair Stewart said the Town will be installing underground utilities and that may have something to do with the request. He asked members to drive by the site to see what trees will be discussed.

Cemetery expansion committee:

Chair Stewart told the members that the Cemetery Committee is beginning to think about expansion of the Cemetery and one possible area for expansion may be the area behind the cemetery between the fence (road side) and where the cemetery is currently located. He said the Commission may be asked for input; he encouraged members to go to the area and review it for a frame of reference.

Beth Hume said that the Commission should ask Dan Geiger to review the area with regard to wetlands.

Pitt Lane – backs up to Lavenger Creek –

Chair Stewart suggested the Commission members contemplate encouraging the piece of land to be used as a pocket garden or other conservation/open space area. He said he feels it would be nice to maintain the property as an open space.

Green Waste Days

Jim Rini noted that the Green Waste Days have been very successful. He said that he and Mr. McGuckin suggested that some controls be put in place regarding what can be brought to the days. The suggested regulations are: (1) loading green waste on tarps to facilitate ease of removal or to package the materials in bags that can be removed and disposed. Beth: need to publicize that – put it in the April issue of islander and island items, (2) no brush longer than four feet.

The members suggested advertising the regulations so residents would be aware of them.

Jim Rini will write up the changes and submit them with the dates for the Green Waste Days so they can be published.

Adjourn

Nancy Gulley MOVED to adjourn the January 6, 2015 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission at 5:15 pm; this was SECONDED by Rebecca Audet and APPROVED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Lucius, Secretary to the New Castle Conservation Commission