

Approved: February 2, 2016

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 5, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Members Present: Chair Lynn McCarthy, Conni White, Ron Pascale, Jim Rini, Beth Barnhorst, Bill Marshall, Nancy Gulley

Members Not Present: Planning Board Representative Darcy Horgan, Curt Gillespie, Rebecca Audet, Brian Mack

Others Present: Theresa Walker (Rockingham Planning Commission), Tracy Degnan, Michael McAndrew, Bill Stewart, Sara Varela

Chair McCarthy called the January 5, 2016 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission to order at 4:03 pm.

Approve December minutes

Nancy Gulley MOVED to approve the December 2015 NCCC minutes as amended; this was SECONDED by Conni White and APPROVED by a vote of 5 in favor and 1 abstaining (as he was not present at the December meeting).

Work Session / Applications:

Theresa Walker from Rockingham Planning Commission to discuss the "Tides to Storms 2" technical assistance proposal.

Theresa Walker introduced herself and explained that the Rockingham Planning Commission serves communities regarding land use and transportation planning. She said RPC is membership based and the Town of New Castle has a membership. She said they provide transportation, land use planning and natural resource protection planning and their office is in Exeter with 14 employees to provide assistance to the communities. Ms. Walker said they completed the recent sea level rise project and received additional funding to implement those items from the project to assist the Towns in being more resistant to sea level rise. Ms. Walker said

the RPC developed the natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for New Castle and she noted that the plan helps the community to be more prepared for natural hazards. Ms. Walker noted there is some federal funding available to tackle the issues that have been identified as being of risk for the Town of New Castle. She said that the money available through homeland security is specifically for prevention; that is, how the community can prevent damage through buffers, culverts, etc.

Tracy Degnan reviewed the application to Northeast Region Ocean Counsel:

Phase 1 – Hold four public presentations on the importance of sea level rise and explain why buffer enhancement and protection of the buffers would provide protection against sea level rise.

Phase 2 – Discuss transportation and evacuation issues by meeting with the Department of Public Works and the Emergency Management Director. It was noted that NH DOT may be repaving Route 1B this summer which presents an opportunity to discuss upgrades to the culvert located under Route 1B.

Ms. Degnan said the goal is to complete four similar workshops before May and to discuss sea level rise, storm surges and buffer enhancements at the workshops. The members discussed holding the workshops at Henry's or at the Public Library.

Ms. Degnan said they also plan to work with the Planning Board regarding storm water management. It was noted that New Castle has 41% impervious coverage. She said they will also review site plan and subdivision regulations to see how they can be improved and that best management practices are being employed. Ms. Degnan said they will also look at the zoning requirements (impervious surface versus impervious coverage definitions).

Ms. Walker said that all findings from the workshops need to be finalized and reported by mid-September.

Ms. Walker noted that some tools developed through the workshops could be used by the Emergency Management Director and the Select Board in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. She explained that the Hazard Mitigation Plan

will need to be updated in 2019 and that FEMA will want to see that some of the objectives stated in the current plan have been performed. She said the workshops will fulfill the outreach objective stated in the plan.

The members discussed evacuation from the Island when one of the two bridges is under construction, as will occur in the near future. Ms. Walker noted that provides additional incentive to ensure the other access points are accessible during a storm surge.

The members discussed Route 1B and how the NH 10-year DOT road repair and upgrade plan works.

The members discussed scheduling the workshops and what will be needed before a workshop can be held.

Ms. Walker said that the GIS staff can make the maps with only a couple of weeks' notice.

Beth Barnhorst suggested having a copy of a large map present at the Primary Day voting.

Chair McCarthy asked who would create the presentation for the workshops.

Ms. Walker said that she and Ms. Degnan will work together on the power point presentation for the workshops. She said the storm surge information will provide an introduction to the research and the maps will tell the story, followed by a discussion explaining that this town and the homes are vulnerable to changes so measures should be taken to protect the property.

Chair McCarthy said there was also a discussion of sending out a mailing which would include the dates of the workshops. She asked if Ms. Degnan and Ms. Walker would be able to do that.

Ms. Walker said they can provide the content if the town will mail the information out.

Nancy Gulley suggested holding one workshop in the spring so that residents who leave for the winter can attend.

Ms. Barnhorst suggested having a paragraph on the Town's website with links to information regarding the workshops.

Jim Rini suggested sending a mailing with three maps with the six different scenarios (sea level rise and sea surge on each map); rather than an overlay map.

The members not producing six color maps in a mailing could be an expensive endeavor. It was suggested that the maps be used in the power point presentation.

Ron Pascale suggested having a visual that shows the areas of the Island in different colors to represent the extent of the rise and surge.

Mr. Rini said that the direct mailing is important because a lot of people will not go to the website.

Ms. Walker asked if the members would like to review what information is being written for the direct mailing at the February meeting.

Chair McCarthy asked if the members could have the information a weeks or so before the meeting to review. She noted that The Islander could include a color version of the map.

Ms. Degnan asked when the Town newsletter deadline is.

Chair McCarthy said that March 4th is the deadline for the Town Report and noted that it is done in black and white.

Ms. Degnan said the Town Report could be a way to publish the dates of the workshops.

Bill Stewart suggested adding the information on this in the Conservation Commission's Annual Report.

Ms. Barnhorst suggested using a two-page map when submitting an article to The Islander. She volunteered to work with Ms. Walker and Ms. Degnan on the submission to The Islander.

Conni White volunteered to work with Ms. Degnan on the design of the announcement/direct mailing and with Vista Print.

Mike McAndrew said that the Town Hall has a set of the six large maps.

Ms. Walker said they would write a paragraph to go with the maps.

Chair McCarthy suggested having the dates of the workshop and where more information can be found regarding the workshops.

The members discussed the best way to display the maps and it was decided that they be displayed on foam core or trifold boards.

Mr. McAndrew volunteered to locate the maps so they would be available at the primary meeting to be displayed on a foam board with clips or push pins. (February 9th).

The members, Ms. Degnan and Ms. Walker discussed dates, location and a title for the workshops. Suggestions for titles were: "Is your lot imperiled by the storm surge?; Learn how storm surge and sea level rise will impact The Island; How does storm surge affect you; Will we see a Sandy?"

Ms. Degnan and Ms. Walker will discuss and suggest titles and the members will have the opportunity to choose one.

Dates and location:

March: Wednesday March 16th at 7:00 pm (Macomber Room)

April: Sunday April 3rd at 4:00 pm, Tuesday April 12th at 7:00 pm at the Macomber Room (library)

Tentative: One workshop the first week of May: Monday May 2nd at 4:00 pm at the Portsmouth Yacht Club (tentative)

Ms. Walker and Ms. Degnan will write up a draft of a blurb to go out to advertise the workshops and to have at the Primary voting day, and have it available for review for the February meeting. They will also work on a map to be submitted for the Islander and to use for presentation at the Primary voting day.

Ms. Barnhorst noted that the Garden Club first meeting will be the first Tuesday of February (February 2nd) at 9:30 am with a speaker on rain gardens. She said the garden club sale will also include plants for rain gardens and the Garden Club will also work on helping the rain garden by the library.

Sara Varela noted that there will be a meeting regarding preparedness with an emphasis on what can be done by individuals to prepare in case of flooding (such as have an emergency kit for three days, a family communication plan, etc.) The meeting will be on Friday January 8th at 10 am at the Fire Department.

Green Waste issues: Suggested to have the leaf pile open more frequently for leaf storage (it must be manned to ensure only leaves are put in the pile).

Unfinished Business

- Lavenger Creek Update – Tracy Degnan RCCD – this item was not discussed at this meeting.

New Business

Approve 2016 Budget:

Chair McCarthy distributed copies of the budget to the members for them to review and discuss noting that most of the line items are being submitted for the same amount as the current year budget.

The members discussed asking Dave Murray to take aerial photos (with his drone) of the wetlands.

Mr. Rini will discuss with Mr. Murray his taking aerial photos of the Lavenger and Pit area to help delineate the larger wetlands. The members suggested two photographs; one of wetlands #15, #16, #17 and one of wetland #23.

Ms. White said that measures should be taken to control the Knot Weed at Pit Lane.

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

Nancy Gulley MOVED to approve submitting a warrant article for the Conservation Trust Fund in the amount of \$12,525; this was SECONDED by Jim Rini and APPROVED unanimously.

Announcements

Lynn McCarthy MOVED to adjourn the January 5, 2016 New Castle Conservation Commission meeting at 5:50 pm; this was SECONDED by Nancy Gulley and APPROVED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Lucius, Secretary to the New Castle Conservation Commission