

Approved: March 1, 2016

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FEBRUARY 2, 4:00 PM

Members Present: Chair Lynn McCarthy, Ron Pascale, Jim Rini, Beth Barnhorst, Bill Marshall, Nancy Gulley, Planning Board Representative Darcy Horgan, Brian Mack

Members Not Present: Curt Gillespie, Conni White, Rebecca Audet

Others Present: Mike McAndrew, Tracy Degnan, Theresa Walker, Sara Valera, Abigail Gronberg

Chair Lynn McCarthy called the February 2, 2016 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission to order at 4:4 pm.

Approve January minutes

Nancy Gulley MOVED to approve the January 2016 New Castle Conservation Commission minutes as amended; this was SECONDED by Bill Marshall and APPROVED unanimously.

Chair McCarthy reported that articles regarding the upcoming workshops have been submitted to The Islander and the town newsletter. She said that Ms. White is completing sending out the mailers. Chair McCarthy said a link on the website with the dates for the workshops needs to be added to the Town website. Chair McCarthy told the members that Tracy Degnan and Theresa Walker have determined that the first workshop on March 16th will be for the Planning Board and the Conservation commission to review the issues and come to a consensus.

Work Session / Applications:

Tracy Degnan from RCCD and Theresa Walker from RCD will update the members on “Tides to Storm” workshops and discuss suggested

changes in wetland buffers and the application to have Lavenger Creek designated as a Prime Wetland.

Theresa Walker said they will meet with the Planning Board on February 24th and follow that with a workshop on March 16th for the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. She said that these meetings will give them the opportunity to discuss talking points for the public workshops. Ms. Walker said that maps will be displayed at the polls next week as a reminder that the workshops will be held in April and May. She said the dates of the workshops will be: April 3rd at 4pm in the Macomber Room, April 12th at 7 pm in the Macomber Room and May 2nd at the Kittery Point Yacht Club. Ms. Walker noted that the same information will be presented at all three workshops and that Ms. Degnan will discuss opportunities with buffers to protect properties.

Ms. Degnan said that she has drafted an agenda for the meeting on the 16th with the Planning Board and asked the members to review and provide comments. She said she would like to meet with the Conservation Commission and show them a draft power point presentation before the meeting on the 16th. Ms. Degnan said the meeting should be used to discuss the prime wetland designation for Lavenger Creek and why it is important and significant to the town of New Castle. She said they also need to discuss which wetlands should be suggested to have their buffers increased from 50 feet to 100 feet. Ms. Degnan said that the 2005 wetland map by Dan Geiger was reviewed by Mike Cuomo and he suggested a list of four fresh water wetland complexes that are directly connected or were connected to Lavenger Creek salt marsh. The four wetlands suggested are: a) Pit Lane B (number 17), b) Neils Lane B (number 21), c) Cranfield Street A (number 28) and d) Wentworth Road B (number 15).

Darcy Horgan provided suggestions for the presentation to the Planning Board: 1) state the impact to homeowners of expanding buffers, 2) orient the Planning Board members marking maps with the abutters' names and be ready to discuss specific houses. She said the suggestions are meant to help the members to picture what is being discussed.

Ms. Degnan displayed an overlay of the tax map over the wetland map and suggested that would be helpful.

Ms. Horgan suggested adding names of the owners to the property so the members will be oriented.

Jim Rini suggested giving the Planning Board a blow up of map 2B and add the property owner's names to the map.

Ms. Horgan suggested emphasizing that the designation of Lavenger Creek as a Prime Wetland will not change much for the residents, but will provide State support and that the State supports the designation.

Ms. Degnan distributed information on prime wetlands and the vulnerability report.

Ms. Degnan and Ms. Horgan discussed the deadlines for Public Hearings on these issues. Ms. Horgan said the last date to post and publish wording for ordinance changes for a Public Hearing is March 10th and the last date for a first Public Hearing would be March 21st. She said the Planning Board meets on February 24th.

Ms. Horgan noted that the March 16th meeting was scheduled to be an educational meeting with the Planning Board; she said that the Planning Board would need to vote on the wording for the ordinance at the February 24th meeting.

Ms. Degnan said she could have the wording for the next Planning Board meeting for the members to discuss at the February 24th meeting. She asked if that meeting could be used to discuss the Prime Wetland designation, the change in buffers and the "Tides to Storms".

Ms. Walker said she could provide a "cliff notes" presentation of "Tides to Storm" at the February 24th meeting and then a full discussion at the March 16th joint workshop. She said that would provide the opportunity to spend most of the time at the meeting on the Prime Wetland designation and the buffer extension.

Ms. Horgan noted that exact wording will be needed for the Planning Board member to vote on February 24th.

Nancy Gulled MOVED to provide Tracy Degnan authorization to prepare documentation and verbiage for the designation of Lavenger Creek as a Prime Wetland and to move forward with wording to create an ordinance to increase the buffers from 50 feet to 100 feet for the fresh water wetland complex that includes: Pit Lane B (number 17), Neils Lane B (number 21), Cranfield Street A (number 28), Wentworth Road B (number 15) as noted on the wetland survey map amended 1/15/2007 and prepared by Dan Geiger; this was SECONDED by Brian Mack and APPROVED unanimously. (Jim Rini was not present for the vote).

Ms. Walker said that she would like to discuss what would be the best information for the residents to hear at the three following workshops at the March 16th joint meeting.

Ms. Degnan reported that the workshop on April 12th will have Sara Valera discussing preparation steps for residents regarding flooding and natural disasters.

Chair McCarthy thanked Mike McAndrew for preparing the posters for the polling place next week and displaying them. She noted that David Murray took aerial photos of the wetlands and said the link can be added to the power point presentation. Chair McCarthy said that Mr. Murray offered to provide more photos at the end of the season.

Unfinished Business

None was discussed at this time.

New Business

Garden Club and Rain Gardens

Beth Barnhorst reported that Robbie Woodburn of Woodburn and Associates spoke to the Garden Club regarding rain gardens. She said that the elementary school children attended the meeting to learn more about rain gardens since there is one at the school. Ms.

Barnhorst said the Garden Club will purchase plants and restore the rain garden behind the library. She said they will provide the manpower and pay the cost and would like the Conservation Commission to takeover maintaining the rain garden. Ms. Barnhorst noted that it takes a year for the plants to become established and they need to be weeded.

Ms. Horgan said the discussion regarding maintenance is concerning because this Commission frequently has a condition to include a rain garden in approvals and residents do not know that the rain garden needs to be maintained. She said there should also be information provided to them about maintaining the rain garden.

Ms. Barnhorst said it would be beneficial for the Conservation Commission to educate people on issues such as rain gardens.

Ms. Horgan said the Conservation Commission could have a folder with resources that can be copied to provide to residents when the Commission places a condition of installing a rain garden.

Chair McCarthy said that she printed some pervious pavement storm water brochures to distribute to applicants. She agreed it is a good idea to provide information and examples for residents.

Ms. Degnan said that septic system brochures also would be helpful.

Chair McCarthy asked if there is anyone interested in being the education point person for the Commission. She said that would consist of knowing where the file is and be able to provide the information to the applicants. She said the Commission should have a designated file with educational information.

Ms. Walker said that she and Ms. Degnan can provide information to assist the Commission.

Ms. Degnan updated the Commission on the IPM project occurring at the three plots at Lavenger Creek. She said there will be a workshop in October with Dave Burdick and the remaining phragmites on the salt marsh will be cut. Ms. Degnan said that permission from the home owners was received to review access and they will be meeting

with the contractors who have reviewed hand cutting versus using equipment to remove the phragmites. She said this should move forward in February or March and that Fort Stalk can be used for some of the disposal of the phragmites and the contractor will remove the rest.

Sara Valera reported that they will be holding a second planning meeting on Friday at 10 am at the Fire Department to discuss an activity for natural disaster preparedness on April 12th at the end of the workshop.

The members reviewed the maps to determine which maps should be displayed at the Polling site on February 8th.

Adjourn

Nancy Gulley MOVED to adjourn the February 2, 2016 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission at 5:18 pm; this was SECONDED by Jim Rini and APPROVED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Lucius, Secretary to the New Castle Conservation Commission