

1 **APPROVED**

2
3 **New Castle Conservation Commission Meeting**
4 **Town Hall**
5 **Tuesday May 3, 2016**
6

7
8 **Members Present:** Chair Lynn McCarthy, Darcy Horgan (Planning
9 Board Representative), Nancy Gulley, Don Pascale, Jim Rini, Beth
10 Barnhorst, Bill Marshall, Brian Mack, Conni White

11
12 **Others Present:** Tracy Degnan, Don Graves

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14 Chair McCarthy called the May 4, 2016 meeting of the New Castle
15 Conservation Commission to session at 4:06pm.

16
17 **1. Approve Minutes to the meetings on March 1 and April 5,**
18 **2016**

19
20 Chair McCarthy asked if there were changes or amendments to the
21 minutes for March and April, 2016. There were none.

22
23 *Nancy Blanding MOVED to accept the April and March, 2016 New Castle*
24 *Conservation Commission minutes; this was SECONDED by Beth*
25 *Barnhorst and APPROVED unanimously.*

26
27 **2. New Business**

28
29 Nancy Gulley raised a question regarding marked trees on Wild Rose
30 Lane. The trees were marked over the weekend. She questioned
31 whether the marking was to identify trees to be removed. Due to their
32 close proximity to the wetlands, it was questioned if the Conservation
33 Commission had been informed and whether the presumed project fell
34 within the purview of the Conservation Commission's responsibilities.

35
36 Don Graves clarified that in order to gain access to a lot for survey
37 purposes, there was no need for a permit. A permit provided by the
38 Planning Board would be needed if a driveway was to be constructed.

1 Don Graves determined that at this point, the marked trees are a part of
2 a survey of the property for potential future development. At this time,
3 there does not appear to be a plan to remove them.

6 **3. Unfinished Business**

8 Tracy Degnan, Conservation Specialist from the Rockingham County
9 Conservation District, reported to the members on the progress of the
10 wetland study. As part of the outreach effort, there was a workshop
11 held, which was attended by 8 people.

13 Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission is due to visit
14 the meeting in June. Tracy suggests that some of the concerns which
15 have been voiced in the previous meetings and in the workshop could
16 be sent to her in advance so that she can prepare to answer them.
17 Theresa is connected to the project *Tides to Storms: Preparing for New*
18 *Hampshire's Future Coast: Assessing Risk and Vulnerability of Coastal*
19 *Communities to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge.*

21 Tracy suggests that we identify items for her to address when she
22 comes. Her suggestions included: reviewing storm water regulations to
23 protect water quality and another was how to enhance the Tides to
24 Storms project.

26 Other suggestions included looking into driveway pavements which are
27 pervious to water so that it soaks into the ground instead of running off
28 and potentially causing damage. Another suggestion was to include a
29 regular column in *The Islander* to help educate residents about all the
30 different components of projects which can contribute to a better
31 understanding of the issues which are being identified.

33 Following on this discussion, the members discussed how to better
34 prepare for future projects involving the town's wetlands and how to
35 best assist the residents in understanding such issues as potential
36 impact on property values. Future projects regarding wetlands
37 discussions could be better received with more education and
38 notifications to the town residents as well as the formal invitations to
39 direct abutters of the wetlands.

1
2 Darcy Horgan suggested that the Conservation Commission find ways to
3 be proactive in the future. There are ways for all the members to
4 educate themselves about what is in place now. We need to know what
5 is allowed (is there a permit to cut trees?) and we need to be educated.

6
7 One of the tools we can use is the set of aerial photographs of New
8 Castle which can be found on the Internet.

9
10 A suggestion was made that the Conservation Commission look into
11 creating a checklist to be followed when there is a site visit and include
12 seeking permission for a follow-up visit to see the results of the project.

13
14 Tracy Degnan gave a brief update on the "IPM Grant. A company is
15 schedule to remove the *Phragmites* (common reeds), an invasive
16 species, at Lavenger Creek. They will then be taken to Ft. Stark for a
17 controlled burn (coordinated with the Fire Department) and another
18 portion will be taken off island for composting or biomass production

19
20 The document *Increasing Wetland Conservation District Buffer*
21 *Protection Timeline* was shared.

22 23 **4. New Business**

24 25 1. Vote to approve paying invoice from RCCD

26
27 *Brian Mack MOVED to approve paying the invoice, Nancy Gulley*
28 *SECONDED the motion, it was APPROVED unanimously.*

29
30 Tracy's final report with recommendations should be ready in
31 July/August 2016. She suggested that Theresa also be asked to work on
32 stormwater management and pervious surface suggestions.

33 34 2. Rain Garden Workshop

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36 Ron Pascale reported on a rain garden workshop by the Hampton
37 Conservation Commission and the NHDES SOAK Up the Rain program in
38 April. Hampton has \$75 cost-share grants for rain garden installations.
39 These will help property owners with help with the design and

1 installation of rain gardens and with the purchase of plants and soil
2 amendments.

3

4 Ron also shared that the soil testing program is run out of UNH
5 Cooperative Extension. Results include both conventional and organic
6 fertilizer recommendations, pH, organic matter content and a lead
7 screening analysis.

8

9 Handouts included *Native Plants for New England Rain Gardens* and
10 *What is a rain garden?*

11

12 Public works reports that there has been some damage to the road area
13 adjacent to the present rain garden. It was suggested that the Garden
14 Club might restore the area or move the rain garden to a better location.

15

16 3. Homeowners Guide

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18 It was suggested that the conservation Commission put together a
19 package for interested residents which includes this information, as
20 well as other resources, such as Rolling Green Nursery, which also has
21 recommendations for native plants which will prosper in this area.
22 Alternatively, some of this basic information could be included in the
23 Conservation Commission's Home Owner's Guide.

24

25 **5. Adjournment**

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27 MOVE to adjourn the meeting by Jim Rini, SECONDED by Ron Pascale.

28

29 Respectfully submitted by,

30

31 Ellie Clement, Secretary to the New Castle Conservation Commission