

New Durham Conservation Commission

Minutes of November 29, 2011

New Durham Public Library

Members Present: Chairperson Cathy Allyn, Charlie Berube, Ron Gehl, Paddy McHale

Excused Absences: Bob Craycraft and Bill Malay
David Allen was out of town

Others Present: Jack Szemplinski, Relf Fogg

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Applications

Permit by Notification - The CC met with Jack Szemplinski regarding replacing two stone retaining walls, replacing wooden docking, and eliminating concrete docking at 49 Meaders Point Road. Charlie Berube pointed out that the dock is non-conforming and might therefore attract the interest of the Wetlands Bureau. He advised the owners might need to prove when the dock was built.

The CC noted that the work should decrease the impervious surfaces.

Motion by Ron Gehl that the New Durham Conservation Commission waive its right to intervene on the permit by notification regarding property known as Tax Map 111, lot 23; second by Paddy McHale. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Allyn signed the application copies. Mr. Szemplinski said he would bring them to the Town Clerk the following day.

Minimum Impact Application – The CC reviewed an application to repair approximately 63 feet of wall with drystack rock wall with a six-foot wide base, brought forward by Relf Fogg.

Motion by Mr. McHale to approve the minimum impact application for property located at 92 South Shore Road in New Durham; second by Mr. Berube. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Allyn signed the application copies and indicated she would bring them and Mr. Fogg's checks to the Town Clerk the following day.

Mr. Berube advised Mr. Fogg that the full lake elevation is 648.5 feet.

New Durham's 250th Celebration

Chair Allyn said she attended the organizational meeting of the July 2012 celebration as the CC's representative. She said the decision was to have each body be in charge of an event for that day. She brought up planting trees.

Mr. Gehl suggested acquiring a hybrid chestnut, which would be the first planted (that could reach maturity) in town for decades. Chair Allyn is to check with Krissi Bernier regarding the location to plant and Mr. Gehl is to research finding and pricing a hybrid chestnut. The CC discussed getting donations or sponsorships to help with the cost.

The CC agreed that if a hybrid chestnut was deemed impractical, sugar maples or balsam firs could be planted. Mr. Berube said sugar maples played a role in history, citing planting them in front yards for their sap. If a chestnut tree cannot be obtained, Mr. Berube said he would look into finding inexpensive saplings. He asked if the leaves dropped off at the transfer station were being turned for compost, as that would help with the tree planting. Chair Allyn said she would ask the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting.

Membership

Mr. Gehl reported he has been officially sworn in as a full member of the CC.

Budget

The CC expressed dismay that the Board of Selectmen cut its budget. It was discussed that conservation was a simple way to prevent future higher taxes, and that the CC's membership in Moose Mountain Regional Greenways and the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, which the Board cut, helped the CC achieve conservation easements.

Mr. Gehl said he would speak to the Budget Committee on the subject, if available to attend, as he has dealt extensively with both organizations. Chair Allyn said she would email members the Budget Committee's schedule so they could attend, or sign a written request that the dues to those organizations be retained in the CC's budget.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Allyn amended the first sentence of second paragraph of the September 27, 2011 minutes to read: "Ms. Allyn emphasized the need to protect the town's lakes, as they are an appreciable portion of the Town's tax base."

Motion by Chair Allyn to approve the minutes of September 27, 2011, as amended; second by Mr. McHale. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. McHale at 8:20 p.m. to adjourn; second by Mr. Berube. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Allyn

Minutes approved as amended on January 10, 2012