

NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES 25 OCTOBER 2016

Present: Commission members Ron Gehl (Chair), Curtis Richard (Vice Chair), Mark Sullivan, Bob Craycraft (Alternate), Bill Malay (Alternate)

Others Present: Videographer Peter Pijoan

Chair Gehl called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and designated Mr. Craycraft and Mr. Malay to sit in as voting members.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were not available at this time, and were tabled until the next meeting.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery Water Quality

Chair Gehl opened a discussion on the water quality of the Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Malay described the tour they took at the Hatchery on October 11, along with several other members from the community including Fred Quimby (Chairman of Milfoil & Invasive Aquatic Weeds Committee) and resident Mike Gelinas. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Hatchery staff answered many questions asked by tour attendees with "I-don't-knows." The Hatchery is currently undergoing a permitting process, and one of the checkpoints includes maintaining good water quality. It does not mention any specific maximum phosphorous level that must be adhered to, but Mr. Sullivan noted that the Hatchery's discharge is about 27ppb. It's generally accepted that the phosphorous levels have contributed to the spike in excessive vegetation growth in Downing Pond. Mr. Malay mentioned that Mr. Quimby wrote a summary to EPA and DES with minutes of a meeting with the Hatchery staff, as well as Mike Gelinas' observations regarding the inappropriate use of the settling ponds. He has not yet received a response.

2017 Budget

Commission members reviewed the Commission's year-to-date expenses from 2016 and discussed the 2017 budget. Members agreed to increase the Water Quality Testing item by \$225 for future purchasing of additional water testing resources. Members also agreed to increase Dues/Fees by \$104, as a result of increased membership costs from local organizations. Members agreed to decrease Meeting/Conferences item by \$120. The grand total for the proposed 2017 budget is \$2070, with an increase of \$200 from last year.

Merrymeeting Lake Association Water Quality Testing - \$1000
Printing - \$150
Dues/Fees - \$600
Meetings/Conferences - \$120
Postage - \$100
Mileage - \$100

Reinstatement of Land Use Administrator

Mr. Gehl asked Commission members if they all agreed to give our recommendation to town officials to reinstate a Land Use Administrator.

Mr. Craycraft made a motion to approve the 2017 budget as discussed, and approve to recommend that a Land Use Administrator be reinstated. Mr. Richard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

MMRG-hosted Conservation Commission Mixer

Mr. Gehl stated that the annual Moose Mountains Regional Greenway (MMRG) Conservation Commission Mixer is December 3, 2016. He recommends that members attend if they can. This year's meeting has an extended invite to Planning Board and Selectmen members of each of the seven towns MMRG serves. This year MMRG has also invited officials from the City of Rochester. This year's focus is on Conservation and Planning.

Chair Gehl left the meeting at 7:35pm.

Review of Mail

Commission members reviewed mail. First was a copy of a plan for a 1.8-acre gravel pit off Kings Highway in the northern part of the town. The plan calls for ledge excavation and blasting for crushed stone and loam for sale. Plan includes various erosion control measures. The Commission agreed that the plan appears sound. Planning board will be reviewing this application at their next meeting. The Commission received a copy of an approval letter from NHDES for a Wetlands Permit Application for 150 Cedergren Rd. The Commission also received a rejection letter for a Shoreland Permit Application for 302 Merrymeeting Rd. The original plan called for replacing a rubble stone wall along the shore with a block wall, then grade, loam, and seed the lawn behind the wall. DES failed the application because the "wall" the applicant described/photographed does not run along the entire frontage of the property, and it seemed that the applicant's intention was to replace the existing wall and also add to its length. The Commission questioned why the wall is even necessary in the first place. It appeared that the rubble rock is serving its purpose with no problems, and it seems more natural to leave the rocks as is. Commission members agreed that NHDES should probably be notified about our opinion on this application. Unfamiliar with this process, Mr. Richard agreed to notify Chair Gehl about contacting NHDES about this application.

Holms Property Monitoring

Mr. Malay mentioned to Mr. Richard that they should, although not required this year, conduct another walk of the Holm Property in town before the end of the year, to make sure the owners have complied with the easement's regulations.

At 8:15pm, Mr. Craycraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Malay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Richard
Vice Chairman

DRAFT