

MINUTES
NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
25 APRIL 2017

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

Others Present: Videographer Justin Heiser, Paul Raslavicus

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

Public Input

There was no public input.

Public Hearing – Withdrawal of \$10,000 from Conservation Fund for Executory Interest in the WidowMaker Farm Conservation Easement, Map 270 Lot 6

Mr. Gehl recused himself from the discussion, as he is a member of the Board of Directors of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG), which will hold the conservation easement. Vice Chair Richard opened the Public Hearing and after reviewing the property features, opened up the hearing for public input. There was no public input. Commission members discussed the project merits and finances.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund for an Executory Interest in the WidowMaker Farm Conservation Easement. Seconded by Mr. Craycraft. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to forward the approval of the withdrawal from the Conservation Fund to the Board of Selectmen for further action. Seconded by Mr. Craycraft. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Craycraft noted that the project meshes well with the town's Natural Resources Inventory, that it is part of a large contiguous forest block, and that it represents important supporting landscape for a land conservation plan for coastal watersheds. Vice Chair Richard closed the Public Hearing and Chair Gehl continued the meeting.

Review of Minutes

Mr. Craycraft made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, seconded by Mr. Sullivan. The motion was unanimously approved.

Review of March minutes was tabled until the May meeting.

Review of Wetland and Shoreland Applications

Wetlands Permit Application – Fenton, Map 102/Lot 25, 251 North Shore Road. Standard Dredge and Fill application for dock replacement. Application materials were reviewed, and abutter Paul Raslavicus provided input. It was noted that an existing “concrete bulkhead” extends beyond the normal high water line and was in fact a permanent dock, and the application would result in a dock that violates dimensional requirements of Env-Wt 402.03. Members also felt that the requested waiver requirements were not met. **Motion by Mr. Craycraft, seconded by Mr. Curtis to recommend disapproval of the application and denial of the waiver request. The motion was unanimously approved.** Chair Gehl will write a letter to the DES Wetlands Bureau.

Election of Officers

Chair Gehl indicated his preference to step down as Chair due to time constraints. With two members missing, election of officers was tabled to the May meeting.

Merrymeeting River Water Quality Task Force

Commission participation in this task force was requested. Mark Sullivan volunteered to represent the task force. Chair Gehl indicated that he had been contacted by a representative of Trout Unlimited looking into habitat restoration work in northern Strafford County.

Review of Mail

The Commission reviewed incoming mail.

Other Business

Chair Gehl noted that MMRG’s regional conservation plan is nearing completion, with the area surrounding Merrymeeting Lake being shown as warranting highest conservation priority.

Mark Sullivan stepped down temporarily and posed a question about “in-kind” replacement of shoreline structures and applicable permitting.

At 8:10 PM Bob Craycraft made a motion to adjourn. Mark Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Gehl, Chair.