

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 12, 2005
Minutes

1) **ROLL CALL**

Present for the meeting was Chris Ganotis and Chuck Gordon, Co-chairmen, Lee Brooks, Stan Knowles, and John Peterson.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - *March 8, 2005*

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted to approve the minutes as presented. John abstained from the vote because he did not attend the March meeting.

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT**

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted to approve the February 28, 2005 report as presented.

4) **OLD BUSINESS**

a) Conservation Funds Investment Options

Members continued their discussion of investing the Capital Reserve #8 Funds, currently in a checking account, in Certificates of Deposit (CD's) now that interest rates are rising. Chris relayed the rates and terms that he obtained from several bank quotes. Members discussed various amounts which could be deposited, the rates and the length of time to maturity of CD's. There was a consensus to stagger the terms and ladder the rates so that renewals would occur at varying intervals. This would allow for access to the funds and for potential reinvestment at higher rates. **After a motion, duly seconded**, it was voted to empower the Treasurer, subject to Town Treasurer approval, to invest \$325,000 from the Capital Reserve #8 Funds in target proportions of 25% in 6-month CD's; 25% in 15 month CD's and 50% in 2-year CD's through Centrix Bank.

Chuck reported that he spoke with Shirley Fuller, the Towns' Treasurer who indicated she would accompany them to the bank for the transaction. Chris and Chuck will coordinate their schedule with Shirley.

5) **NEW BUSINESS**

a) Recommend amendment of Town Zoning Ordinance Sec. 409.7 E. regarding allowed fill in wetland buffer areas

Current local and state regulations were reviewed regarding the amount of fill allowed in wetland and wetland buffers. Wetlands are governed by DES regulations, while buffer areas are addressed in the Town ordinance. The Commission deliberated as to whether to make a recommendation to the Planning Board to limit volume of fill in wetland buffer areas. Members discussed the ordinance which allows for up to 3,000 square feet of fill in a buffer area. The height and volume of the fill is not specified in the ordinance. Various wording changes for amending the ordinance were suggested to limit the volume of fill that might be permitted. **After a motion, duly seconded**, it was voted that Stan would research the issue further and make a recommendation at the next meeting. Lee abstained from the vote.

6) EXECUTIVE SESSION (North Hampton Forever)

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3(b) to go into a non-public executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss a confidential proposal made to NH Forever. Members agreed to a joint site walk when schedules can be coordinated. The Commission returned to public session at 8:15 p.m.

7) OTHER BUSINESS

- Chris reported that he relayed the requested information to the Nature Conservancy, which is conducting an inventory of conservation land in area towns.
- A reception to commemorate the land transfer to Audubon will be held on May 11th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 10 Sea Road.
- A meeting about the invasive species program is scheduled for May 4th at 10:00 a.m. at 10 Sea Road.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary