

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 8, 2006 - Minutes

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chairman, Lee Brooks, Shirley Carter, Stan Knowles, Patty O'Connor, John Peterson, Treasurer, Alternate Brian Chevalier, and Selectmen Representative Emily Creighton.

After a motion, duly seconded it was voted, with John abstaining, to accept and approve John as the Conservation Commission Treasurer.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 11, 2006

After a motion, duly seconded it was voted to approve the minutes as amended.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT – July 31, 2006

John reviewed the balances for the three Conservation accounts, Capital Reserve Fund Number 8, the William Fowler Memorial Fund and the Little River Salt Marsh Grant Funds. He reported that the Centrix CD which expired this month, was deposited at BankNorth with a higher interest rate.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of using Capital Reserve Funds to purchase conservation land and the specific uses for which the funds can be used. These include general conservation purposes, appraisals and surveys in conjunction with securing conservation land, monitoring, gate installation, and as a stipend to third party land trusts.

4) NEW BUSINESS

a) Ambit Engineering 54 Ocean Boulevard

John Chagnon of Ambit Engineering and Bob Gray of Gray Construction appeared before the Commission regarding renovations at 54 Ocean Boulevard. The homeowner has asked John to resolve the basement water situation. John proposed extending the drainage by installing a catch basin further up the road plus repairing the existing basin at Ocean and Willow which is currently blocked. He confirmed the need for a wetlands permit from DES and asked the Conservation Commission for their review and counsel prior to making formal application.

The Commission suggested John contact Ted Diers or Frank Richardson for a coastal permit and possibly the U.S. Corp of Engineers. John was also directed to contact the Little Boars Head District. Members questioned the amount of pipe that will be visible among the rocks, the pitch of the pipe at the flow point, and whether the current tidal levels were used when determining the outflow pipe placement.

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b) Estuaries Grant Project Update

Shirley, Chris, and Stan met with Chris Kane last week. Members agreed that Chris's initial priority will be to identify the existing conservation parcels which he feels are not effectively protected. He will also gather the necessary documentation missing from the files.

Discussion followed on the parcels listed on the assessor's records as town-owned. Chris said he and the Building Inspector, Red Mabey were able to identify most of the parcels; a few had ambiguous ownership. Several suggestions were made as to the ownership of various parcels. Discussion centered on Map 12, Lot 62, which was deeded to the town by Joanne Lamprey and suggestions about placing the land in conservation. More information on the deed restrictions for the Lamprey property and the Kessler deed is needed before any further action. Chris Kane's work will include researching and compiling the deeds for the town-owned parcels. A possible warrant article to ask the voters to place the town-owned land in conservation was suggested. Members also agreed that the baseline documentation program is critically important for the Town and needs to be done.

Chris has resurrected the letter to the school board inquiring about the possibility of placing the land behind the school in some sort of conservation easement with the use primarily restricted for school-use only.

5) OLD BUSINESS

a) Eagle Scout Candidate Colin Gagnon - project update

Colin is looking into relocating his initial parking area to under the power lines on Walnut Avenue. He will report to the Commission at a later date.

b) Boies Conservation Land - boundary line issue update

Town counsel has not yet responded to the Commission's request from two months ago to send a letter to the abutter whose shed is encroaching on the Boies land. Members felt that another attorney could be asked for assistance.

c) Fogg Conservation Land - trespass problem update

A drafted letter was distributed and reviewed by the Commission to be sent to the neighbor. It recaps telephone conversations regarding the vehicular traffic on the property and the accepted use of the logging road in removing timber and gravel from the rear property. A copy of the easement deed and applicable RSA will be included with the letter.

6) CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER BUSINESS

a) Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program

Chris talked about the CSA farm behind the Wolmar property which is managed by UNH students who are paid a stipend to manage and grow the vegetables. The co-operative membership participants receive the product for their own use and also donate some to local charities, such as soup kitchens. Members discussed the feasibility of such a program for the Marston property across the street. Questions and

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comments followed regarding management oversight, parking, security, water supply, and whether a fee could be charged for use of town-owned land.

b) Letters to Commission – Open Positions

There are currently two open positions for the Commission (one full voting member to complete Chuck's term) and two alternate positions. Two letters of interest were received for the full voting member and three letters were received for the two alternate positions. There is also Chuck's vacated position with North Hampton Forever for which Stan has sent his letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen.

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted, with Emily and Stan abstaining, to recommend Stan to the Board of Selectmen as the appointment to North Hampton Forever.

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted, with Brian and Emily abstaining, to recommend Brian to the Board of Selectmen as the full member, replacing Chuck, to the Conservation Commission.

Members expressed appreciation for the residents who sent letters of interest in volunteering as each has a good background of knowledge and information. ***After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted,*** with Emily, Shirley and Chris abstaining, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen, Lisa Wilson and Phillip Thayer as alternates to the Conservation Commission who will best represent the interests of the Commission.

c) Ebert Conservation Easement Purchase

Members voiced frustration and embarrassment caused by the continued delay in closing the purchase of the Ebert property.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary