

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 9, 2007 - Minutes

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chair, Lee Brooks, Vice-Chair, Shirley Carter, Brian Chevalier, Stanley Knowles and Alternates Philip Thayer and Peter Simmons. Alternate Lisa Wilson arrived later as indicated.

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES – September 11 and September 13 (two sets)

▪ *September 11, 2007*

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted with Peter abstaining to approve the minutes as presented.

▪ *September 13 Site Walk and Business Meeting Minutes*

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted with Peter abstaining to approve the minutes as presented.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT – September 2007

Report not provided due to John's absence. Chris said that the landowner of 57 Woodland Road will be contacted regarding the \$500.00 unused legal fees check received from SELT. Alternate Lisa Wilson arrived at this time.

4) NEW BUSINESS

1. Driveway crossing through wetlands along Buckskin Lane, Map 22 Lot 24-1, to access Buckskin Lane.

Steve Olds of AMES MSC provided a plan for review. The proposal is to deviate from the approved site plan of a shared driveway to two individual ones, resulting in 1,850 square foot impact to the wetlands. Steve told the Commission that two fifteen inch culverts will be installed, the line of site problem on Winnicut Road has been resolved with the State, there will be 300 cubic yards of fill for the 14 foot wide driveway and the driveway will be gravel if recommended. He said a driveway access from Buckskin Lane instead of Winnicut road will be a better selling feature for the property. *After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted* unanimously to table a decision on the proposal until the next meeting.

2. Minimum Impact Expedited Permit Application for the proposed repairs to the Mill Pond Dam (112 Mill Road), Map 6, Lot 147-2.

Chris Cooley of HTE Associates Northeast, Inc. presented the proposal. A posterboard layout provided photographs and schematics diagrams of the repairs as outlined in the written application. There will be no significant wetlands impact as the only impact will be a 600 square foot temporary disturbance in conjunction with the dam repairs. Chris Cooley indicated that the State Dam Division has mandated these repairs, there will be no appreciable increase or decrease in the wetlands at the site, and there is not any increase to the footprint at the area.

NHCC 10-09-07

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Note: These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 13, 2007.

Conservation comments and questions included preventing contaminants from running downstream, DES oversight of the project during the repairs, and that the Conservation Commission does not have jurisdiction on dams. *After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted* unanimously to recommend that actions be taken to minimize silt infiltration downstream.

5) OLD BUSINESS

1. Wildlife Assessment status report

Stan reported that a contract has been signed with Peter Pekins, the UNH wildlife professor whose two graduate students will be conducting the assessment. They will be doing the assessment on the following parcels: Garland/Metallious, Leavitt/Marston, Dustin, Lamprey, and Seavey. Stan read a summary of the project parameters which will consist of four major components, wildlife assessment, vegetative assessment, descriptive maps (habitat type, topography) and specific management objectives. He told the Commission that the State's Fish and Game Department has recently completed a three-year wildlife action plan and that North Hampton's assessment report will provide excellent documentation for comparison.

2. Colin Gagnon Eagle Scout Project status

Colin reported that Jane Kent Rockwell will not allow access on the property so he is changing the location of his Eagle Scout project. He felt that the Deer Run and Buckskin Lane (Woods and Dustin parcels) is a beautiful piece of land and felt positive that he can create a nice walking trail for the area. He talked about constructing a footbridge over the stream and Buckskin Lane can be used for parking. Chris asked that Colin provide his Project Plan for the Commission to review and approve for his Council.

3. North Hampton Forever update

- a. Dalton deed – property conveyed.
- b. UCC deed – pending resolution of previous owners.
- c. Donais parcel – pending closing by mail.
- d. Jenkins easement – re-appraisal in progress.
- e. Robie transaction, TPC – closed.
- f.. Rockingham County Conservation District oversight – RCCD staff engaged to provide oversight monitoring on several parcels. Chris applauded the staff at RCCD for their excellent stewardship and assistance.

6) CORRESPONDENCE

- 9/18/07 letter from Southeast Land Trust re: baseline documentation for 57 Woodland Road. Chris reviewing and forwarding onto Board of Selectmen for approval.
- 9/27/07 letter from DES re: 2004 complaint regarding 68 Lovering Road. Peter confirmed that the letter indicates no violations occurred and the file is closed.
- 9/13/07 letter from SCA (Students Conserving America) re: Volunteer Awards Ceremony.
- 9/14/07 letter from Planning Board re: request for Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment to attend meeting to discuss current wetlands setbacks. *After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted* with Peter abstaining to accept the Planning Board invitation. Members suggested October 15th as a meeting date dependent upon availability of others.

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7) OTHER BUSINESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Moore

Chris reported that the deed has been recorded.

54 Ocean Boulevard

The property received State approval for the drainage system which will run into the existing catch basin.

Buckskin Lane Construction

Members discussed the drainage flow running from the new home under construction onto Barton Brook while several felt the complete development is draining into the brook. Brian will contact the building inspector regarding the issue.

School Playground Material

A resident expressed concern about the excess sponge or rubber cushion material used on the playground which has been dumped on the side of the rear nature trail. It is on the vegetation and wet area. Chris will contact the building inspector to see if there is a violation.

Conservation Land Contamination

A discussion ensued regarding the lack of Town manpower to ensure code compliance and oversight. Members felt strongly that failed septic systems, fertilizer run-off and other illegal practices are contaminating and defacing conservation land and without the necessary manpower these practices will continue. A suggestion was made to use Conservation funds to hire an engineer to look for violations which effect conservation land, which can then be reported to the State. Plans were also discussed to test the water in the stream behind the North Hampton Mall. The Morton building encroachment issue resurfaced and Chris will follow-up with the building inspector on the status.

ZBA/Conservation Communication

A discussion followed regarding Conservation Commission responses to wetland issues. Meeting dates of the Zoning Board and Conservation Commission create difficulty in communication as the registered letters are received by the Commission **after** the Zoning Board hearing. Arrangements have been made for the Chair to receive the agenda prior to the ZBA meeting. It was also suggested that members use the "Subscribe to Notices" feature of the Town's website.

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary