

# NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2009

### 1) ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), Shirley Carter, Philip Thayer, Stanley Knowles, Alternate Lisa Wilson, and guests Robert Field, Esq., John Chagnon, Rich Skowronski and Peter Horne.

### 2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

#### *January 13, 2009 Regular Meeting*

*After review of minutes, a motion was made by Lee, duly seconded by Stan, and it was voted unanimously affirmative to approve the minutes as presented.*

### 3) TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) Treasurer's Report was given by Chris Ganotis reporting the ending balance as of 1/31/09. Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Stan to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4) NEW BUSINESS

#### a) Follow-up to ZBA correspondence regarding independent review of proposed variance, Case 2009-1, 112 Mill Rd., Lot 6-147

A discussion with the Commission and Mr. Horne centered on contracting for the independent review of the wetlands setback variance application. Chris indicated that the Rockingham County Conservation District has an expert contractor, Dr Leonard Lord, who they highly recommended. The Commission can contract directly with the RCCD. After further discussion, *a motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Stan*, to retain the Rockingham County Conservation District to arrange for the independent technical review of the application seeking a wetlands setback variance, to conduct a site walk and to prepare a technical memorandum to the Commission on recommended actions. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **b) Proposed Conservation Sub-division plan proposed to the Planning Board**

A presentation by Robert Field, Esq. and the applicant, Mr. Richard Skowronski was given. Subsequently, Mr. John Chagnon made a brief presentation indicating the need for a wetlands crossing application and for the private road to go through the wetlands setback. Mr. Chagnon passed out copies of a Minimum Impact Expedited Permit for the committee to review. There was discussion regarding

the permit and *a motion was made by Shirley, seconded by Stan* to authorize Chris to sign the expedited permit. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chagnon also indicated that part of the private road would go through the wetlands setback. After discussion, the Commission indicated that it had no objection to the proposed roadway plan.

There was also discussion concerning the road surface. The Commission had a preference for a pervious surface. The applicant indicated that his intent was not to pave the road. The Commission then indicated that it would like to have the plan with a condition indicating that pervious surface would be used on the road. *A motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Stan* to request to the Planning Board that the pervious surface be a condition for approval of the application.

The Commission also discussed the use of a third-party land trust to act as steward and hold the conservation easement for the conservation portion of the sub-division. The applicant was agreeable to this, since he had already met with RCCD to discuss the easement. The Commission agreed that the applicant contract with RCCD, since it is a suitable land trust to hold the conservation easement.

Subsequent to the discussion, *a motion was made by Shirley, seconded by Stan*, to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Planning Board to highlight the above issues for its consideration.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a) Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, Phase II Update**

The permit is moving ahead with a condition that comment and approval by the state Historical Resources department review be provided after submission of the permit.

### **b) Conservation Parcel signs/signposts**

A sign needs to be put up along Exeter Road to give advanced notice of the approaching entrance of the Town Forest. It was suggested to contact the NH Highway Dept. as to the location for a historic marker type sign that it can put up to identify the approach to the Town Forest entrance.

### **c) Guest Speaker Series Lectures**

Chris has a list of prospective speakers to give to Susan Grant for follow-up.

## **5) OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a) North Hampton Forever Update**

ZBA application for wetlands setback relief for Case 2009-3, 134 Walnut Ave., Lots 019-003-005 and Lot 015-017

The Commission discussed the application for a wetlands setback variance. After deliberation, it was the sense of the Commission that it would not object to the variance, citing that with the variance, the owner can then plan for placing the acreage behind the subdivision into conservation.

The case has been postponed until the March ZBA meeting to deliberate a two lot subdivision wetlands setback variance. Because of the value of potential conservation land behind the subdivision, the commission concluded that it should not take exception to the variance. Chris will draft a letter. ***Motion was made by Stan, seconded by Shirley*** for Chris to draft a letter to the ZBA.

b) Planning Board Correspondence

The letter to the Planning Board will be sent to address the Rocky Ledge Conservation Subdivision plan.

**6) OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chris received an email from Ted Diers, Coastal Program Director, to indicate that NOAA is likely to receive significant funding through the stimulus package for habitat restoration. They will be creating an RFP with a rapid turnaround soon after the bill passes. They will be looking for “shovel ready” projects that restore coastal species or habitats.

Chris also mentioned receipt of an Request For Proposals from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP), offering a new round of technical assistance grants for 2009. He solicited ideas from the Commission members for a proposal.

There being no further business, ***a motion was made by Lee, seconded by Stan, to adjourn the meeting.*** The motion was unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Moore