

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2009

**1) ROLL CALL & ADMINISTRATIVE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), Shirley Carter, Patty O'Connor, Stanley Knowles, Alternates Lisa Wilson and Phil Thayer, North Hampton Forever Co-Chair, Phil Wilson and guests, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Castagna.

**2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting

*After review of minutes, a motion was made by Stanley Knowles, duly seconded by Phil Thayer* and voted unanimously affirmative to approve the minutes as presented.

February 24, 2009 Site Walk

*After review of minutes, a motion was made by Shirley Carter, duly seconded by Lisa Wilson* and voted unanimously affirmative to approve the minutes as presented regarding the site walk of the Horne property.

**3) TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer's Report was given by Chris Ganotis reporting the ending balance as of March 31, 2009. *A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Lee Brooks* to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was passed unanimously.

**4) NEW BUSINESS**

1. Election of Commission Officers: *A motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Lisa Wilson* to nominate Chris Ganotis as Chair. The motion passed unanimously, with Chris not voting. *A motion was made by Shirley Carter, duly seconded by Lisa Wilson* to nominate Lee Brooks as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously with Lee not voting. *A motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Stanley Knowles* to nominate John Peterson as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Chris mentioned that there is an Oath of Office requirement for reappointed members and alternates.

3. Payment of \$1,400 for Dr. Leonard Lord's Technical Expert invoice which included the site walk on February 24, 2009, a memorandum report and attendance at a zoning

board meeting was brought up for approval. *A motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Shirley Carter* to approve and pay this invoice from the Capital Reserve # 8 checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding another invoice dated November 25, 2008, previously approved but not paid as of yet for a stewardship fee of \$2,500 to Rockingham Conservation District, for the Dupont land. This will be paid from Capital Reserve #8 checking account.

4. Mr. & Mrs. Michael Castagna were introduced. They are considering the purchase of a lot at 192 Atlantic Ave. that has some wetland issues and asked to get a sense of the Commission's position. They would like to build a home outside the building envelope in the front of the lot, and rather, in the wetland buffer, approximately 30-35 feet from the wetlands. The Commission recommended that construction in the building envelope would be more acceptable.

5. A Phragmites invasive control proposal by Dave Kellam was discussed for a restoration project he would like to conduct, potentially recycling the stalks of the removed phragmites. This project would help to improve the ecological function of wetland habitat, which is being degraded by dense strands of Phragmite. *A motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Stanley Knowles* to contract with Dave Kellam this control pilot research project at no expense to the town and he remove and properly dispose of the Phragmites from the town owned conservation land. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Chris was given a letter from North Hampton Forever regarding an offer by Mrs. Carol Parkhurst of Rye offering the town a two acre parcel of land - Lot # 12-72, surrounded by the conservation subdivision owned by Mr. Skowronsky, for its assessed value of \$10,000. This cannot be approved until the subdivision has been approved by the town. *A motion was made by Stanley Knowles, duly seconded by Lee Brooks* responding that the conservation commission would like to initiate purchase and sale agreement discussions for potentially purchasing the property. The motion was passed unanimously. Chris will send a letter to her.

## 5) OLD BUSINESS

### 1. ZBA Correspondence:

a. Chris sent a letter to the Zoning Board regarding an application for a variance for wetlands setback relief for Case 2009-3, 134 Walnut Ave, Lots 019-003-005 and Lot 015-017. In its March meeting, the ZBA voted for a continuance of the case to its meeting on April 28th.

b. The April ZBA meeting agenda includes an application for a salt pile on a parcel on Lafayette Rd. The Commission discussed that a salt pile should comply with DES

guidelines, including covering of the salt pile, using an impervious surface on which to store the salt and including storm water runoff controls around the pile.

2. Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, Phase II Update

The permit application is in review by the DES. It does not appear that the permit will be approved in time to begin spring construction.

3. Guest Speakers Series Lectures

The presentation on April 14th, which featured Sandy Crystall of the DES Wetlands Bureau was highly successful. Some twenty two persons from the public attended. The next lecture is planned for May 19th at 7 p.m. featuring Phil Auger, who will present options that landowners have to place land in conservation.

**6) OTHER BUSINESS**

1. North Hampton Forever Update by Phil Wilson was given regarding the closing for the CELCP grant. He also requested that the Commission sign/send a prepared letter to several members of Congress to support the CELCP Program. The Commission approved sending the letter.

FRPP Grant Update

The appraisal for the FRPP grant on the Jenkins property was approved by the FRPP Staff. The closing is scheduled for early May.

2. Planning Board Correspondence

Regarding the Confalone application, the Planning Board is likely to require a drainage study for mitigating storm water runoff into the Bass Beach Marsh.

3. Conservation Commission Web Page Updates

The Conservation Commission discussed options for making Conservation web page information more accessible. One option was to have its own web page, linked to the Town's. Another is to set up a web page through the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

**7) OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chris passed out the Great Bay Estuary brochure issued by the Conservation Law Foundation. He also reviewed a list of Commission members with their terms expiration dates. All terms have been approved from 2009 through 2012.

Chris then passed out a brochure on the *Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership: A Year in Review of the Future* which mentioned North Hampton's wetland and water resource protection outreach as a 2008 CTAP Project.

***There being no further business, a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Patty O'Connor to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Moore