

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2009

1) ROLL CALL & ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), Shirley Carter, Alternate Peter Simmons and Mike Coutu, Select Board Representative. Also in attendance was Colin Lawson, Antioch College.

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

August 11, 2009 Regular Meeting

Tabled. Not enough members present from August meeting to vote.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

Tabled. Bank reports were not available yet for September meeting.

4) NEW BUSINESS

1. DES Update, Little River DES: Chris met with DES in August. After discussion at the meeting, it was decided that we had insufficient test data to propose specific remediation actions for the per-proposal. DES agreed to conduct additional testing along the entire Little River watershed in fall, 2009-Spring 2010. No further action was taken.
2. Winnicut River watershed proposal
Mr. Colin Lawson addressed the Commission, pointing out that his pre-proposal was delivered to DES by the Sept 4 deadline. He is working with a three towns (North Hampton, Stratham and Greenland) on the watershed assessment. He was seeking a letter of support to submit from the Commission to include in the final proposal due in December. He indicated that no financial commitment be made at this time and, if the proposal is accepted, he will seek in-kind help from North Hampton. The Winnicut is listed by DES as an impaired watershed. Key issues appear to be surface water runoff and presence of development inside the wetlands buffer. He will also seek a 9-member stakeholder board to oversee the watershed project. *Following discussion, a motion was made by Mike Coutu, seconded by Lee Brooks, for the Commission to transmit a Letter of Support to the project, but with a friendly amendment to indicate that no financial commitment is made by the letter of support, but that in-kind support would be considered at a later date.* Motion carried unanimously.
3. Parcel Map 2, Lot 71 Parcel transfer Mr. Neil Moore

As a follow up of Mr. Moore's offer to sell this parcel, Chris Ganotis reported to Mr. Moore that the Conservation Commission, in its August meeting, voted against the purchase of the 0.8 acre landlocked parcel, near Nilus Brook because of added expenses for legal fees and monitoring greater than the value of the lot. Mr. Moore indicated that he will consider the donation of the land to the Town for Conservation.

4. Lot Map 8, Lot 145-001. At the request of the Planning Board, the Commission discussed the application of Mr. Thomas Nowak to construct a 400-ft by approximately 12 feet wide roadway through wetlands to access his backland. The roadway would disturb approximately 4,500 square feet of wetlands. Much of the back land is also wetlands, so it was unclear why the road was needed to access additional wetlands. Further, it was unclear why such a long and wide roadway was being proposed, since the access would be seasonal and would be for a tractor. In the discussion, it was suggested that the DES should weigh in on this application also. After further discussion, a *motion was made by Peter Simmons, seconded by Lee Brooks, to ask Mr. Nowak to attend our October meeting to explain his proposal in more detail and to answer questions and to also to schedule a site walk. Further, the motion included that the Commission request that the Planning Board take no action on the application until after the Commission has discussed the proposal with Mr. Nowak. The motion passed unanimously.* Chris will contact Mr. Nowak; notify the Planning Board of the Commission's discussions and to schedule the site walk.
5. Map 2 Lot 85 The Commission learned that the parcel, which abuts the Fogg Conservation Land, was being put up for sale. It was reported to Chris by phone, by an abutter Mr. Seavey Rideout that the owner was seeking the assessed value of the land, of approximately \$28,800 and that Mr. Rideout would consider partial payment of the purchase. In discussion, the Commission felt that the land is landlocked and is not believed to be a buildable lot. Mike Coutu indicated that the Town recently adjusted the assessment of landlocked parcels to \$3,500 per acre, which would thereby lower the value of the parcel to \$21, 000. After further discussion, it was decided to make a proposal to Mr. Rideout. A *motion was made by Lee Brooks, seconded by Mike Coutu, to offer to split the cost of the land 50/50, with Mr. Rideout and the Commission each paying \$10,500. The motion was passed unanimously.*

5) OLD BUSINESS

- Town Forest Timber Harvest Update
In discussion with Stan Knowles, Chris learned that the harvest was underway, with three truckloads of sawlogs shipped from the Town Forest. In addition, the skid used to remove logs from the Forest encountered mechanical problems, thereby causing a stoppage in the harvest. Pending repair of the skid, it is expected that the harvest would be completed by the end of September.

In another phone discussion, Lisa Wilson mentioned to Chris that Mrs. Dalton does not want to have trees planted along her property line because she wanted access to her septic system and well for maintenance. Lisa reported that Mrs. Dalton is uncertain as to the type of screening she would like at her property line to detract public crossings.

6) **OTHER BUSINESS**

ZBA Correspondence

There was no new Correspondence

- Planning Board

New correspondence requesting that the Commission review of the Nowak application, Map 8, Lot 145-1.

There being no further business, *a motion was made by Lee, duly seconded by Mike to adjourn the meeting.* The motion unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ganotis
Chair