

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2009

1) ROLL CALL & ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), John Peterson (Treasurer), Shirley Carter, Stanley Knowles, Patty O'Connor and Alternates Peter Simmons, Phil Thayer and Lisa Wilson. Also present were Phil Wilson, North Hampton Forever Co-Chair, and members of the public, Charlie Brindamour, Paul Harris and Thomas Nowak.

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

September 8, 2009 Regular Meeting

Tabled until later in the meeting, when there were enough members present for a quorum to approve the September 8th meeting minutes. A motion was made by Shirley Carter, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to approve the minutes as written. It was voted unanimously affirmative.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

John Peterson presented the report. After review of the report, a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Stanley Knowles, to approve the report. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4) NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas Nowak of 64 South Road, M/L 008-145-001 explained his proposal to construct a 10-foot by 400-foot roadway through wetlands to access their backland so that his children could play in that area and he could plant a garden. He added that a secondary purpose of the road was to allow for emergency vehicle access in case anyone was injured in the backland. Abutter Paul Harris of 58 South Road indicated that he would not object to emergency vehicle using his abutting driveway to access Mr. Nowak's backland and then gave a brief history of his property. He recommended that Mr. Nowak's field needs to be maintained, which he would take care of and mow using equipment that would not harm the wetlands. However, Mr. Nowak stated that he would prefer to maintain it himself. In addition to the wetlands being disturbed from the roadway, the end of it goes directly into additional wetlands. Further, there was no study done on surface water runoff and no indication of whether any mitigation of runoff would be provided. The general consensus was that the detrimental impact to the wetlands from the roadway appeared to outweigh the benefit of access through additional

wetlands to the backland. After some discussion, a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Stanley Knowles to postpone a decision by the commission until a site walk could be done on October 24th, however the motion was withdrawn and another motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Stanley Knowles to recommend to the Planning Board that the proposed driveway be disapproved due to its impact on the wetlands. The motion passed, with Peter Simmons abstaining.

5) TIMBER HARVEST UPDATE

The Timber Harvest on the Town Forest has been completed. Chris Ganotis gave a special note of thanks to Stanley Knowles for managing this project and also to the Public Works Department including John Hubbard and his crew for work that avoided hiring outside contractors. As a result of the Harvest, \$6,499.29, net of harvest expenses, was raised and deposited into the Town Forest checking account. A motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Stanley Knowles to spend a not to exceed amount of \$2,500 for town posts and signs and the placement of 3-4 granite posts, however, after further discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Lisa Wilson will obtain quotes for the cost of signage, granite posts and a backhoe and then a decision will be made at the November 10th meeting. After further discussion, a motion was made by Stanley Knowles, duly seconded by Patty O'Connor, to repay the Capital Reserve Fund from the Town Forest account the \$3,000 that was advanced from the Capital Reserve account. The motion was passed unanimously.

6) OTHER BUSINESS

ZBA Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

North Hampton Forever Update

Co-Chair Phil Wilson reported that there are no pending projects.

Planning Board Correspondence

Chris Ganotis will write to the Planning Board, explaining the reasons why the recommendation at 64 South Road was not supported:

- 1) because of too much wetland that would be disturbed
- 2) the proposed use doesn't appear to justify such a large roadway

7) OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Ganotis reminded everyone to look at the e-mails he sends for meeting and conference information.

The Commission will likely not purchase a landlocked parcel that abuts the Fogg Conservation Land which is for sale, since the owner is reportedly seeking to sell it at a price as an approved house-lot.

Peter Simmons had questioned the amounts paid by land owners regarding land coming out of current use. Chris Ganotis referred him to the Town Tax Office, which can identify parcels in current use and the Town Clerk, who can indicate parcels that were taken out of current use. Chris added that the Current Use provisions are part of State law and beyond the Commission's purview.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Stanley Knowles, duly seconded by Shirley Carter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Moore
Recording Secretary