

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2013
As Approved

Administrative

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), Kathy Grant and Philip Thayer. Members of the public included Christopher Latimer and Jeff Latimer.

Consideration of Minutes

After review of the April 9, 2013 minutes, a motion was made by Lee Brooks, *duly seconded by Philip Thayer, to accept the minutes as written with one minor correction.* (the addition of Greg Harned's last name) The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Code of Ethics Preamble

The Chair then read the Code of Ethics Preamble in Article 2.

Old Business

Trail Maintenance Projects

Nothing to report. Lee Brooks and Philip Thayer will clean up trails soon.

Trail Use Communications – no report given

Trail Maintenance

Brush Clearing – 57 Woodland Road

Thorny brush needs to be cleaned up.

Conservation Budget

Chair described the budget. Total of \$3,601 is presently in the account.

Tom will provide bank statements soon.

New Business

Boy Scout Eagle Proposals

Philip Thayer introduced Christopher Latimer from Troop 81 in Rye who is interested in building a two section bridge behind Gus' Bike Shop and

clearing some of the trails around the bridge to be completed by the end of June. He plans do have a Fundraiser to raise enough money for the materials needed for this project. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to direct Chris Ganotis to sign the Beneficiary approval form for the project to clear the trail up to the retention pond area behind Shaw's and Olympia Sport stores, with no cost to the Conservation Commission.*** The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Proposed Railroad Bed Recreational Trail in North Hampton

The possibility of railroad ties being dumped on abutting conservation land was discussed. ***A motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Philip Thayer, to direct Chris Ganotis to send a letter to the Rockingham Planning Commission, supporting the rail bed for a recreational, not motorized trail, with railroad ties not to be dumped on abutting property or thrown over banking.*** The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Jeppesen Conservation Parcel

Russell Jeppesen requested 14.6 acres be converted to conservation land. He would retain the right to place 3 house lots along Mill Rd. The old stone lined roadway easement and right of way near the Fogg property will connect to the new conservation easement. In exchange, the consideration would be an abatement of current use tax for the 3 house lots. The land has an estimated value of approximately \$500,000. The lot line adjustment will be proposed at the July Planning Board meeting for approval.

Runnymede Farm Conservation Easement Proposal

The ring is in place and the project has been completed and with favorable results. The Chair distributed project photos to Commission members and emailed them to the owner, contractor and Attorney.

Little River Water Quality Testing and DES Grant Proposal

The program will be beginning soon. DES due date for quality testing was May 10th. FB Environmental will be the contractor for the project. Project will begin when paperwork is completed by the town. The Governor's Council will have a 6-8 week time frame following a sign off and completion.

Little River Dam Removal Project: Wetlands Permit

The wetlands permit has been submitted to DES in Concord. The only open issue is access to the property, since the conditions by the railroad company were economically prohibitive.. If the state purchases the land before the Commission begins the dam removal project, the right-of-way can be likely be used for accessing the land.

Conservation Easement - Gov. Dale Farm

The Southeast Land Trust has reviewed documentation for approval sent to them by Farm & Ranch Protection Program (FRPP). The final Cooperative Agreement is pending with the FRPP.

School Greenhouse Update & Legal Opinions

The Commission has been asked for a contribution supporting the purchase of the proposed greenhouse at the school. A legal opinion by the Local Government Center indicated that State law forbids budgetary funding from town boards, including conservation commissions, to be used for school purposes, since the school is an independent legal entity. The NH Association of Conservation Commissions also gave an opinion that structures such as the proposed greenhouse, cannot be funded pursuant to Chapter 36A, which describes legal obligations and limitations of Conservation Commissions.

Wetlands Violations

The Chair noted that there have been increases of incidents of wetlands violations. He added that the Commission has no enforcement powers and resources at the Town and State levels for enforcement are limited.

Other Correspondence & Other Administrative

The Heritage Commission's Town Hall Ceremony will be held at the Town Hall on May 18th at noon.

Parker Westbrook from Troop 176 in Hampton will be at the June Commission Meeting to discuss his Eagle Scout project.

There being no further business to discuss, *a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to adjourn the meeting.* The meeting adjourned at 7:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Moore

Recording Secretary

DRAFT