

North Hampton Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2013  
As Approved  
Subject to Revision & Approval by the Conservation Commission

Administrative

**Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), Kathy Grant, Anita Pounder, Peter Robie, Rick Stoklosa, Phil Thayer and Lisa Wilson, Alternate. Members of the Public included Paul Connolly, Civilworks, Inc., Ben Auger and Alan Perkins.

**Consideration of Minutes**

After review of the August 13, 2013 minutes, *a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to accept the minutes as written.* The motion carried with a unanimous vote, with Anita Pounder, Peter Robie and Rick Stoklosa abstaining.

**Old Business**

**Trail Maintenance Projects**

Phil Thayer reported that three projects are in still in progress and coming along well.

**Fogg Conservation Parcel**

The Chair reported that “Private Property” and “No Motorized Vehicles” signs have been posted on the Fogg Conservation Parcel where the property begins and ends. John Hubbard has made more parking spaces. Access Trail to Jeppesen property has been marked. Brush still needs to be cleared on 57 Woodland Rd parcel but a quote needs to be obtained first. The issue of poison ivy concerns on the trails were discussed and how to address this issue. Lee Brooks will contact Darlene Lawrence at DES regarding his certification to assist with this issue.

**Trail Use Communications: Newsletter, Brochure, Web site**

Lisa Wilson reported that a newsletter is not in user friendly format at this time for printing. She and Rick Stoklosa are still working on the project.

**New Business**

Paul Connolly, a Civil Engineer retained by Mr Perkins, made a presentation regarding a wetlands variance application for 68 Atlantic Ave. and spoke on behalf of Alan and Donna Perkins, owners of Runnymede Farm. The proposed plan is to reconstruct and improve the septic system and allow for landscaping improvements within the 100 foot

wetland buffer, which Mr Connolly opined that it will also improve water quality of the Little River. After further discussion, questions and answers and continued deliberations, *a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to recommend the first variance of upgrading and replacing the current septic system, since it likely would result in improved water management and watershed water quality.* The motion carried with a unanimous vote. *A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to recommend approval for the 2<sup>nd</sup> variance for the landscaping proposal, based primarily on the removal of impervious compacted gravel surface behind the barn and adding vegetative cover in its place to mitigate surface water runoff.* The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Based on information received by the Commission, by questions and answers during the discussion and by deliberations following the presentation, the Commission directed the Chair to send a letter to the Zoning Board recommending the approval of these variances to improve the quality of the water in the Little River watershed.

## **Updates**

### **Boy Scout Eagle Projects**

Phil Thayer and Lee Brooks examined a foot bridge and cleared trails by Parker Westbrook. *A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to approve Chris Lattimer's Eagle project.* The motion carried with a unanimous vote. *A motion was then made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to permit the Chair and Vice Chair or a designated Commission member to give a final approval in the last two months of pending and future Eagle Scout projects.* The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Afterwards, Ben Thayer gave an update on his Eagle project.

### **Little River Quality Testing & DES Grant Proposal Bacteria Tests and Canine Detection Report**

The first round of testing has been completed with sampling and canine detection. There are still some issues with the river, with tests showing continued bacterial contamination of water quality particularly following heavy rainfall events causing surface water runoff into the river. The final report of the testing and canine detection was discussed.

### **Little River Dam Removal Project Update**

John Hubbard and his crew completed this project without creating a wetlands disturbance and did a great job. A summary report that DES required in the permit is pending.

### **Conservation Easement, Gov. Dale Farm Update**

The easement agreement is completed for review by the Farm & Ranchland Protection Program staff. The closing is planned for mid-to-late November.

The Southeast Land Trust fundraising is still seeking an additional approximately \$30,000 from private donations to meet its goal.

**Closing for Jeppesen Parcel**

The date has been set for September 17, 2013 to close on the parcel.

The final review of the Conservation Easement is pending and to be signed off by the Rockingham County Conservation District. Other needed legal documents are completed for the closing.

**Other Correspondence & Other Administrative**

Cleanup of the Marston Cemetery abutting the Jeppesen parcel was discussed.

The Chair received and described other correspondence from DES on wetlands issues.

There being no further business to discuss, *a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to adjourn the meeting.* The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Moore  
Recording Secretary

*“Disclaimer: These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A:2,11. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Conservation Commission”.*