

Conservation Commission Minutes

August 12, 2013

Chairman Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:08. Other members in attendance were Celia Abrams, Cheryl Smith, Kristen Lamb, and Raelene Shippee-Rice, Alternate, sitting in for Susan Mooney.

Easements: Demeritt will contact Southeast Land Trust and Rockingham County Conservation District for quotes on putting the Kennard property into conservation easement, with perpetual monitoring.

Roadside Cleanup: We scheduled a roadside cleanup for Saturday, 8/24, 7:30am. Demeritt will pick up the equipment. Those who can attend will meet at the library. Anyone wishing to participate on a different schedule should contact Demeritt to arrange to get bags. Some discussion ensued about whether the CC should continue to do this service or coordinate with volunteers from other groups.

Invasives Control: Smith noted that town mowing had included sections of Japanese knotweed, which should only be cut, not mowed. Smith has left a note with Dawn Wirkkala to make sure the mowing crew gets this message.

Minutes: The minutes for July 8, 2013 were reviewed and accepted as amended. The motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Lamb; all five votes were in favor.

CC voting policy: We discussed adopting a policy to clarify CC voting practices following a correction to the previous minutes which erroneously reported all votes were cast in favor of the Bear-Paw quote on the Kennard easement. In fact, Demeritt abstained from that voting but did so only by not voting rather than saying he abstained. His abstention was in line with our current unwritten practice. Abrams moved that we formally adopt a policy that any member of a board of another organization should abstain from CC votes involving monetary matters related to that organization. Seconded by Shippee-Rice. Vote was 4 in favor, 1 abstain.

Correspondence: Notices and permits received as follows.

- DES Shoreland Impact Permit 2012-01262 was issued 7/10/13 to construct a driveway and septic system impacting 5640 sq. ft. on Map71/Lot126, 23 Beach Head Rd, to Kevin Jordan.
- DES Shoreland Impact Permit 2013-01731 was issued 7/18/13 for Map68/Lot55, Cahill Ln, to construct a new residence and garage, driveway and septic impacting 14,663 sq. ft., to Margery I Conroy Trust, Wayzata, MN.

- DES Intent to Cut notice for Stillbach property, Map74/Lot1 and Map75/Lot1, to cut 200+/- of 402 acres. Logger is Robert W Graves III. Access will be through Cilley Rd in Raymond.

New issues of "Directions" from Woodward and Curran and "The Source", from NH DES Source Water Protection Program, were received.

Bear-Paw Report: Demeritt reported that the next newsletter will be published at the end of Sept. Chris Bogard, turtle rehabilitator, will be the speaker at the annual meeting this winter. Casting on the Suncook will be offered again this summer. Frank Mitchell will lead Part II of the volunteer easement monitoring workshop on 9/21. A kayak/canoe paddle on Wild Goose Pond or Pawtuckaway Lake will be held on 10/19, Mark West leading.

LRWA Report: The annual meeting celebrating the first 30 years of the organization will be held Friday 10/18.

The meeting went into executive session at 7:57 to discuss possible violations. Moved by Abrams, seconded by Shippee-Rice, 5 votes in favor. The meeting reconvened in public session at 8:11.

Other Business:

Shippee-Rice asked if the CC ever met with the ZBA and Planning Board to talk about long term planning issues and the master plan. All members agreed this could be beneficial. Smith suggested meeting at least annually. She will contact ZBA chair Russo and Demeritt will contact the land use secretary to see about arranging a joint meeting.

Lamb asked about the issue of cul-de-sacs related to the upcoming subdivision for The Crossings, off Oak Ridge Rd. Cul-de-sacs are now allowed by the recent changes to the Planning Board regulations but may still be prohibited by other town regs. A better balance might be reached between some less-likely safety hazards of concern to the fire and police departments with some of the day-to-day hazards caused by speeding on residential through roads and increased number of intersections. Important conservation options may be lost if cul-de-sacs don't receive broader approval.

We discussed televising the CC meetings. Smith moved that we leave our meeting schedule unchanged and meet in conference room 1 so we can televise our meetings on those nights when they do not conflict with the BoS meetings. Seconded by Shippee-Rice, all 5 votes in favor. We also discussed the need for technical support or training on the equipment, especially related to those meetings when we need to go into executive session, as tonight.

Shippee-Rice left the meeting at 8:34.

Abrams updated the CC on issues with invasives on the library lot. The library landscape committee has received conflicting information from vendors and wetland scientists about the interpretation of state regulations pertaining to the use of herbicides near surface waters and wetland soils. The landscape committee and library trustees would like a recommendation from the CC that any use of herbicides on the library lot be done with all appropriate special wetlands permits and herbicide formulations. Smith suggested that the committee first get clarification from NH Department of Agriculture Pesticide Division on the interpretation of their regs, as well as a map delineating the wetlands on the lot (to be provide by Mark West). Abrams agreed to take this recommendation back to the landscape committee.

Pending easements were reviewed per the request of Dawn Wirkkala on behalf of the BoS for updated information on the Conservation Fund status. We currently have 3 financial commitments for the fund on the order of \$220,000 for 240+/- acres. We have had discussions with another party for a 100 acre parcel and possible projects for 2 other landowners with a total of 90+/- acres, costs as yet to be determined. Abrams, Demeritt, Mooney, and Smith will follow up on these properties to determine approximate costs and timelines.

A motion to adjourn was made by Smith and seconded by Lamb. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia Abrams, Temporary Secretary

These minutes were accepted as amended at the meeting held on September 9, 2013. Corrections have been made.