



Town of Sandown , NH
Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 20, 2012

Date: December 20, 2012

Place: Sandown Town Hall

Members Present: Paul Carey – Chair, Brian Butler, Scott Burt, Mark Traeger, Andrea Cairns

Members Absent: Samantha Borbone

Selectmen Liaison: Mr. Hans Nicolaisen: Absent

Environmental Consultant: Mr. Gerry Miller, Certified Wetlands Scientist: Present

Annual Fishing Derby Chair: Mrs. Heidi Chaput: Absent

Opening: Mr. Carey opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Review of 12/6/12 Minutes

L34 change to “Ogerman”

MOTION: Mr. Burt made a motion to approve the 12/6/12 minutes as amended. Mr. Traeger seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Ms. Cairns abstained. The motion passed.

Correspondence

The Commission received:

- Calendar from Fish & Game.
- Letter from Land Share program
- Check for \$15,000 to go into the conservation fund from lots 17-003-31 and 21

Mr. Butler asked what the balance was in the conservation fund. Mr. Traeger noted it was \$256,662 which includes a \$36,000 withdrawal for the deposit on the Drowne property. The balance owed for that purchase is \$144,000.

Exeter Squamscott Local Advisory Committee

Theresa Walker from Rockingham Planning Commission and Peter Richardson from the Local Advisory Committee

Ms. Walker started by thanking Sandown for their support of the local advisory committee. They pay \$150 every year to help the committee. She noted the group has expanded to capture the entire length of the Exeter River. The Exeter River starts in Chester and goes through Downtown Exeter where it becomes the Squamscott River and goes into Great Bay.

Ms. Walker gave a history of the local advisory committee and their work incorporating the Squamscott River (salt water portion) into the system and making it part of the advisory committee work.

Ms. Walker noted that the committee is working on updating the management plan to re-engage with planning boards

along the entire watershed to implement buffers and protection for wetlands and vernal pools to reduce non-point surface pollution.

Mr. Butler questioned what percentage of the river had conserved land. Ms. Walker thought it was close to 18% but would need to find out.

Mr. Carey questioned if any agencies were looking into the Canadian goose population. Ms. Walker wasn't sure but could look into it. Members discussed the issue.

Mr. Butler asked if they were taking nitrogen levels along the route of the river to know if there were specific hot spots for pollution. Ms. Walker noted they haven't done that for nitrogen, but it is needed and would be part of the management plan they are currently working on. She asked if they set up a sampling program and needed volunteers, would there be any interest in that. The group noted there would be.

Mr. Richardson noted that the subdivision regulations need to be created so that the pre-construction runoff is the same as post-construction runoff.

Mr. Miller asked if they still tested for E. coli along the Exeter River. Ms. Walker noted they did not do that anymore.

Ms. Walker noted that Sandown could have two more people on the advisory committee and that they meet once a month for about an hour and a half. Mr. Traeger is already on the committee and noted he has a few potential new members.

Mr. Butler noted he would be interested in seeing the management plan. Ms. Walker noted they would be coming back with that. She will also bring in the number of conservation land on the river.

Mr. Miller asked if any outreach has been done to animal owners (horse, sheep, goats, chickens) on small parcels of land. Ms. Walker confirmed they have done some outreach and have done some education on best management practices.

Hersey Highlands Survey

Mr. Traeger noted he received an invoice for the \$1,000 deposit from Tim Pelequin and asked if members wanted to walk the property. Members did not feel that they needed to walk the property.

Mr. Traeger and Mr. Butler finalized the points to be marked.

Fremont Road Town Forest Selective Cut Update

Mr. Butler noted he spoke with Mr. Moreno and the cut is going well.

Mr. Traeger and Mr. Burt both stopped by the area and noted it looked good. Mr. Traeger called Matt Rittenhouse from the Tri Town Times to write an article, especially noting people should be cautious in the area. Mr. Butler thought it would be completed in 3-4 weeks but noted the weather would play into that timeline.

Planning Board Wetland Ordinance

Mr. Traeger updated the board on the proposed ordinance and noted there would be a public hearing on the December 26th. He noted the change to the language that applicants "may" receive a favorable letter from Conservation, which changed from "shall." Members discussed why that changed. Mr. Traeger explained how the change came about. He encouraged members to attend the public hearing.

New Business

Mr. Burt noted he may not be available for the January meetings.

Tick Program

Mr. Carey would like to discuss this at the January 8th meeting. He noted they needed to build an RFP and publish in the papers in January or February. He was hopeful they would get several responses and could schedule presentations in February.

Mr. Traeger asked if he had a ballpark estimate on how much each treatment would cost. Mr. Carey thought around \$350-500 per treatment. He noted if they kept the field cut shorter, it might help cut down on the need for more treatments.

Mr. Miller asked if there was a stage in the tick lifecycle where it would be best to spray. Mr. Burt noted they usually spray the school fields in April and May and then sometimes again in September.

Mr. Traeger and Mr. Butler had some concerns about keeping a manicured field and if it would impact wildlife in that area.

Mr. Traeger questioned how many people actually cross the field and suggested spraying before an event.

Mr. Carey noted there is an entomologist from UNH that he could approach to see if he could come and do a presentation. Mr. Miller suggested that it would be good to open a program like that up to the public since the topic would be tick control and not Lyme disease. Mr. Carey will follow-up on this and try and coordinate something.

Old Business

Mr. Traeger noted that they were going to have Tim Pelequin come in, but he forgot to put him on the schedule. He asked members if they wanted him to come in on January 8th. Members agreed that he could come in once he had a recordable survey and he could present it to them.

MOTION: Mr. Burt made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Traeger seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Cairns".

Andrea Cairns