

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, January 25, 2012, Public Session

Members present: Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Bill Grace, Bob Keating, Dan McAuliffe

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Lincoln DaleyDebbie Foss

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes

- Tim motioned, Bob seconded a motion to accept the January 11, 2012 public and non-public minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Calendar Items

- Dena Stern will hold a composting workshop on April 14, 2012, at Blueberry Bay Farm. The rain date is April 21.
- The CC will hold clean-up day on April 14, 2012, with a rain date of April 21.

Other

- The CC agreed to again sell rain barrels and compost bins to area residents. Pat will complete the participation packet and send it to NRRA.
- Bill gave the CC an update on the Exeter & Squamscott Rivers Local Advisory Committee. The Committee had a discussion on the Squamscott nitrogen level. They would like to work with towns to investigate impervious surface runoff, culverts and other stormwater structures, and Theresa Walker of Rockingham Planning Commission will be working to develop a map of areas of potential concern. The NH Coastal program is getting a 50/50 grant to study nitrogen levels and ways to address runoff. Lincoln informed the CC that the Stratham PUC requested \$10,000 in its budget to go towards this effort. Other concerns and potential educational efforts included those related to septic systems, drugs and salt getting into the water system. Bill said that he will raise this issue of septic system education with ESRLAC. He also will try to get online versions of a DES booklet available for property owners to assess and improve stormwater management and of the watershed management plan that is being revised.

ESRLAC has many other educational opportunities being planned including the kayak education effort on the river, a saltmarsh ecology workshop, a vernal pool workshop, a tour of the fish ladder in Exeter and the river festival/clean-up day. Members provided Bill with some ideas for locations of vernal pools in Stratham. The Merrill farm seems to have a good system for runoff control and Pat will give Bill Nate's email address so he may contact him for specifics of the farm's program.

Town Forest Sign

- The location of the town forest sign was discussed. There were concerns about vandalism to the sign. It was agreed to put the sign on an angle just past the Gifford barn and cut-through road at the beginning of the trail to the town forest. A

surveillance camera and sign were also discussed. Paul was asked to release the check to Portsmouth Sign Company. They will hold the sign until we are ready to install it. It will be installed by Portsmouth sign and Pat will get an installation cost from them.

At 8:00 p.m. Dan moved, Tim seconded, moving into a non-public session to discuss possible land acquisitions. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:02 p.m. Tim moved, Bob seconded, moving out of non-public session and sealing the minutes of the non-public session. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held Feb 8, 2012

Respectfully submitted by
Pat Elwell, Chair