

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Members present: Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Allison Knab, Bill McCarthy, Dan McAuliffe

Non-members present: Paul Carideo, Lincoln Daley, Paul Deschaine, Michael Donohue, Debbie Foss, Alexis Makris

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Bunker Hill Development

- The developer will be going back to the Planning Board on December 5.
- A water line will be put in on a 30 foot wide, approximately 400 foot long easement, per an agreement with the town. The developer wants the CC to do a site walk and discuss trees that could be saved along the easement. A site walk will be held December 7 at 9 a.m., it will be publicly posted.
- Trails on the development were discussed; there will be three types (existing 3-foot natural ground trail, existing 3-foot gravel path entrances, proposed 10-foot gravel path). Their location will be discussed in late spring.

Minutes

- Tim motioned, Dan seconded a motion to accept the July 25, 2012, meeting minutes with Doug Cygan's name corrected and the November 14, 2012, minutes with the CIP budget adjusted to \$25,000, Donna listed as having the plaque, and the phrase "30-day turnaround" included. The motion passed unanimously.

Mail

- Information was sent on the next compost bin/rain barrel sale. Orders will need to be in by March 15, delivery will be April 15. The CC agreed to participate again.

Park Association

- The Park Association has extra money and has discussed clearing extra brush/growth around one of the park ponds. They plan to attempt doing it by hand initially; the CC expressed concern about how well it would work but raised no objections.

Planning Board

- Lincoln will forward the CC comments on 6 Frying Pan Lane to the PB.
- Open space regulations are being discussed, including: whether the density bonuses are too liberal, creating a minimum setback/buffer around open space parcels, and a discussion of how the conditional use permits are administered.

Budget

- The Board of Selectmen is considering putting some of the CC's requested \$25,000 CIP in a warrant article.
- Dan suggested discussing the exact items to be needed for the CC's budget.

- The CC discussed potential budget items; see Appendix A for the discussed items.

Easements

- The Goodrich easement is still awaiting commentary from the state Attorney General.

Other

- Due to the holiday season, the December 26 meeting will be canceled; Bill motioned, Allison seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. We will have pizza and invite the ad-hoc committee to the December 12 meeting.

Tim motioned, Dan seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47. All voted in favor.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held December 12, 2012

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary

Appendix A

Stratham Conservation Commission Budget

The Conservation Commission took a more in depth look at its budgetary needs at the 11/28/12 meeting in order to be able to provide the Budget Committee with expense details. While the nature of CC expenses is often unpredictable, the outline below tries to address some of the current annual operating expenses (both ongoing and those specific to 2013) and CIP expenditures that are on the foreseeable horizon.

Annual Operating Expenses

Recurring

Spring Clean-up day \$150
Caroline Robinson library book donation \$100
Compost bins (for additional purchases, to be recouped when sold) \$500
NHACC Dues \$300
ESRLAC dues (2012 paid by PB)/activity funding
CC member workshops \$150
Ad Hoc/easement education materials

2013

Town Forest border markers/"preserve" markers around Atlantic Cedar Swamp
Fish and Game, Chapman landing development
Dena – Education Liaison – Education programs

Capital Improvement Fund (also funded by the Land Use Change Tax)

Gordon Barker Town Forest projects (thinning, trail maintenance, inventory, improvements)
Zarnowski property development
Easement monitoring (for required properties) – current \$2,300
Additional Easement monitoring – review list with Andrea
Land conservation/easement purchases (including associated survey and legal expenses)
Boy Scout projects