

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 8, 2012, Public Session

Members present: Edie Barker, Tim Copeland, Bill Grace, Donna Jensen, Bob Keating, Allison Knab, Dan McAuliffe, Bill McCarthy

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Debbie Foss, Tammy Hathaway, Laura Prescott, Roger Stephenson, Kim Woods

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m., Donna Jensen presiding.

Hunting in Stratham Hill Park

- Kim Woods, Park Ranger, spoke about hunting issues with regard to a warrant article that would prohibit hunting in the park and adjacent town properties.
- Kim noted that historically she believed hunting was not allowed in the area, so she informed hunters they could not hunt there. She noted many trail walkers had complained about encountering hunters.
- Kim noted the multifold increase in the town population in the last several decades (1500 people to 7400 people), the increase in area roads, proximity to Stratham Memorial School, the use of the park by the Coyote Club program, the potential distance a shotgun bullet could travel (840 feet, 4365 foot ricochet), and several similar areas (e.g. Urban Forestry Center) that do not allow hunting.
- Kim may do a site walk with Fish and Game on Friday, February 10.
- Tim noted the area may fall under state regulations against hunting in a 'compact park' and near trails. This should be investigated
- Donna suggested information should be given on other town areas where hunting is allowed, such as the Scamman property.
- CC members expressed concerns about user conflicts
- Dan motioned, Bill M. seconded a motion to write a statement that we are in support of a warrant article to prohibit hunting in SHP and adjacent town properties. Six members (Tim, Bill G., Donna, Allison, Dan, Bill M.) voted in favor of the motion, two (Edie, Bob) voted against the motion.

Other

- Allison motioned, Dan seconded a motion to authorize Pat to purchase a sample compost bin for \$47. The motion passed unanimously.
- Bob motioned, Tim seconded a motion to pay a bill from the Sykas law office for \$337.50 related to a purchase and sale agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

- Tim motioned, Bob seconded a motion to accept the January 25, 2012, public and non-public minutes with a change to the date of the non-public minutes and the amount sought for a land acquisition.

At 7:49 p.m. Allison motioned, Bill M. seconded, moving into a non-public session to discuss possible land acquisitions. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:03 p.m. Allison moved, Bob seconded, moving out of non-public session and sealing the minutes of the non-public session. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim motioned, Donna seconded adjourning the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held February 22, 2012

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary