

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 14, 2012, Public Session

Members present: Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Bill Grace, Donna Jensen, Bob Keating, Allison Knab, Bill McCarthy

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Stephanie Frigon, Roger Stephenson, Dena Stern

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

Beavers at CMS

- Stephanie Frigon of Cooperative Middle School discussed and shared photos of the ongoing beaver issue at the school's ropes course. Water continues to come closer to the course and a chewed stump is within 15 feet of a supporting tree
- Replacing the course would cost about \$2500 for a high element, \$600-1000 for a low
- Matt Tarr of Cooperative Extension was suggested as a beaver resource
- A site walk will be held on March 28th

Compost Workshop (April 14th)

- Dena has advertised the April 14th composting session at Blueberry Bay Farm in local newspapers, The Wire, Coastal Home and a.m. radio
- The workshop will include three parts: household-level composting, farm level (Farmer Ron Lawrence), and vermiculture (Donna J.).
- Dena suggested Jo Russuage run the household-level composting. Donna motioned, Bill M. seconded a motion to pay her a \$75 stipend. The motion passed unanimously.
- The rain date will be April 21st

Clean-Up Day (April 14th)

- The clean-up day sign is needed from Dan; vests and gloves from Brad
- Lindt Chocolate will need to be approached about donating chocolate bars
- Coffee and donuts were suggested
- The CC will decide on a location for the Gordon Barker Town Forest sign during clean-up day

Selectmen Meeting

- Pat reviewed the previous Monday's Selectmen meeting, at which the selectmen asked for water rights for all three properties under easement consideration
- The easement for the previous Goodwin property is ambiguous on water rights; the selectmen want the door open for future water rights for both Goodrich properties.
- Additional appraisals may be needed
- The town does not plan to test for water on the properties
- The easement language would need to be changed. The easement holder, in addition to the town and property owner, would have to agree to it.
- The Goodriches believe they would be paid for water taken, which is not the town's understanding

- Roger said he would need sample language; this may be taken from the second Scamman easement
- CC members expressed concern about not knowing water amounts/locations on the properties
- Tim suggested the town have a universal policy on water rights on easements
- Pat suggested having a non-public meeting with the SM earlier in the process to avoid a similar situation in the future

At 8:01 p.m. Bill M. motioned, Tim seconded, moving into a non-public session to discuss the easements. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:44 p.m. Bob motioned, Allison seconded, moving out of non-public session and sealing the minutes of the non-public session. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

- Tim motioned, Allison seconded a motion to accept the February 22, 2012, public and non-public minutes with a change to the naming of the Southeast Land Trust. The motion passed unanimously.

Other

- During the 300th anniversary, town committees will be asked to contribute in some fashion.

Allison motioned, Bill W. seconded adjourning the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held March 28, 2012

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary