

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, July 11, 2012

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

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Debbie Foss, Jean and Josh Jennings, Aaron Sanborn, Roger Stephenson,

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Note: No meeting minutes were produced on June 27, 2012, due to a lack of quorum for the meeting

Roberts Easement

- Paul gave an overview of where the easement stands. The option agreement expired on June 30, 2012, and verbal extensions have been made since then.
- A discussion of what agricultural structures will be allowed within the easement arose. At a meeting the previous Friday a restriction was agreed upon for structures within 250 feet of Stratham Heights Road: that they be temporary in nature, less than 16 feet tall, and hoop houses would be situated perpendicular to the road to preserve the view shed. On Sunday the potential landowners expressed misgivings about the limitations.
- The landowners proposed language that would allow an appeal on the limitations. Brian Hart created potential language to provide this.
- Comments: The Jennings (potential landowners) expressed concern about limitations on their ability to best farm the land, e.g. if a parallel structure would provide better sun. Roger noted that returning farming to Stratham was a priority and that the view shed on the property was limited. Paul noted that public money is being used for the purchase and so the goals include farming, the view shed, and containment of development. CC members expressed conflicting views on the priorities of agriculture versus the view.
- Pat motioned, Tim seconded a motion that Brian Hart of the Southeast Land Trust be the person that continues negotiating with the Jennings in developing the easement language, with the language proposed in his letter dated July 10, 2012, to wit: "The Grantee, in its sole discretion and subject to the consent of the Executory Interest Holder, may grant exceptions to the above limitations on structures within 250 feet of Stratham Heights Road, upon determination that the exception is necessary for the agricultural use of the Property and is not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement." Five members voted for, Bill G. voted against, Donna abstained.

Planning Board Updates

- *39-41 Union Road:* Project is going forward
- *41 Portsmouth Avenue:* Auto Fair owns this lot; a preliminary design for a car dealership has been brought to the Planning Board
- *130 High Street:* A site walk was held. Neighbors have expressed concern about the project (18-unit, single detached age-restricted build-out). They should begin by expressing concerns to the Planning Board.

Storm water Runoff

The town is in two partnerships with UNH. A pilot project is being done around the parking lot expansion of the town building; a grant is being applied for to monitor and measure non-point pollution sources.

Stratham Fair

- The informational display on composting was completed by Donna. Lincoln will print the display (3 feet by 6 feet poster), Donna will assemble, Bob will bring the compost bin and set up the display at the fair.

Other/Mail

- Unutil has started construction, Patty, our liaison, has left the company.
- DES wrote a letter to Lindt regarding its emission permit
- Derek Barney, 7 Butterfield Lane, had a septic application returned from DES.
- RCC sent annual photo comparisons of its land monitoring; no issues were reported.

ERLAC update

- The group will have an update in one month.
- An outreach, kayaking event will be held on the Squamscott in September
- A vernal pool workshop was held in Newfields.

Bob motioned, Bill M. seconded adjourning the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held July 25, 2012

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary