

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Members present: Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Bill Grace, Donna Jensen, Brad Jones, Allison Knab, Dan McAuliffe, Bill McCarthy

Non-members present: Todd Baker (Sarnia Properties), Paul Deschaine, Debbie Foss

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Stonybrook Lane

- Todd Baker of Sarnia Properties came to discuss a proposed commercial development/renovation at Stonybrook Lane. Possible tenants include a walk-in emergency clinic and dialysis center; a Lindt outlet is already there. The space is connected to Exeter water/sewer. The developers plan to move one existing house and demolish another.
- A 4800 square foot area of the development (as planned) would encroach on the wetland setback.
- The CC expressed concern about the size of the encroachment, noted that the wetlands and wetland setback are equally important, and noted that the developer had no explanation for why the encroachment needed to occur. It was suggested that the building be made two stories instead of building in the setback.
- Baker said the plan would be reworked to eliminate the 4800 square foot encroachment. He was also instructed to include the 100 foot setback line on future plans.

Bunker Hill Development Site Walk

- A site walk was done on trails at the front part of the property. The developers are using a mini excavator to make the trail 3-feet wide; it will mostly involve clearing fallen logs.
- Members expressed concern about the trail ending at the roadway. Pat has written a letter suggested it be made into a loop or have directional signs.

Municipal Updates

- The PB recently discussed whether the town should ask for more money to proceed with the Town Center. The CC has raised concerns about the money required and whether a TC really makes sense in the area proposed. At the meeting, it was suggested that the town look at regulations and what the ZBA can do to help businesses in the TC.

Easement Monitoring

- Brian Hart of the Southeast Land Trust approached the town about monitoring a pond on the Roberts Farm, which has a conservation and drainage easement; the monitoring was included in the terms of the easement.
- Baseline testing would include total suspended solids, poliorides, pH, turbidity, salinity and specified conductivity. The price involved \$39/sample, \$128/visit, four times in a year, for a total of \$668.

- Pat motioned, Brad seconded a motion to pay the SELT \$668 to coordinate the water pond monitoring of the Roberts Farm, using the Land Conservation Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

- No minutes

Other

- Donna expressed concern about possible lawn treatments at the town schools. She will ask the school groundskeeper about what is done to treat school grass.
- The booth at the Stratham Fair will focus on fertilizer options and soil testing. Donna will bring a draft to the next meeting.
- Pat sold another rain barrel.

Allison motioned, Tim seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33. All voted in favor.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held July 10, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary