

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Stephanie Frigon

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

Beavers at CMS

- Stefanie Frigon of Cooperative Middle School presented a report and invoice from Bestway Wildlife Control regarding beavers in the area of the school's ropes course.
- The company suggested the use of pond leveler devices to control water levels without damaging beaver habitat.
- There are currently funds available for a limited time for the project, which has a cost of \$2125. The principal has agreed to fund future maintenance of the devices.
- Tim motioned, Bill M. seconded a motion to give CMS permission to install the pond levelers. All voted in favor except Donna, who expressed concern about acting now, rather than waiting another season.
- Stefanie will still need to contact the Vineyards, as some of the conservation land may fall on their property.

Municipal Updates

- Construction has begun on the Makris development. It seems to be progressing smoothly with good erosion control.
- The Stratham Plaza leach field remains on hold/pending. The parking lot expansion at the Town Hall/library is expected to begin next month.
- Rawlins Farm Road work (grading) is beginning.
- The Planning Board delayed the Juliet Marine Systems meeting a week. The company needs final approval concerning light industrial use at the property.
- Nathan and Brenda Batchler, Bunker Hill, are seeking approval to subdivide their elongated frontage to create another lot.
- Residents at 19 Winding Brook Drive are going before the Planning Board regarding plans to add an in-law apartment and larger septic system.
- The town is hoping to close on the Cushman property before the end of the month.
- The Exeter and Stratham negotiating team regarding the possible joint water-sewer system met, will meet again in two weeks.

Sandpiper Environmental/Burnham Woods Issue

- A resident of Burnham Woods has reportedly been digging up trees, dumping/filling in wetland. Terry Barnes filed a cease and desist order.
- The resident has been required to get a report from an environmental company, remove fill, restore and plant the wetland area.

Minutes

- Tim motioned, Allison seconded a motion to approve both the April 24 and May 8 meeting minutes as recorded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mail

- The Rockingham Planning Commission is holding its annual meeting June 12 and is seeking slides from CC members highlighting the best of recent work.
- A workshop on the NH Method (wetlands) will be held June 21.
- Southeast Land Trust will hold its annual meeting June 8 at Cole Farm.
- NH DES approved wetland permits from Unitil.

Other

- The CC plans to have a booth at the Stratham Fair (held July 18-21) on fertilizers. Pat will obtain a booth; the CC will ask Dena Stern about contributing.
- Bill G. went to a clean water workshop on May 9 at the UNH Stormwater Center
- The Stratham Hill Park association has discussed creating a trail patch to sell. The CC discussed being involved or creating a similar patch.

Tim motioned, Bill M. seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23. All voted in favor.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held June 12, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary