

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, January 9, 2013

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

Non-members present: Lincoln Daley, Paul Deschaine, Debbie Foss, Dena Stern

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Dena Stern, Community Education and Outreach programs

- Dena is considering doing a workshop in early spring on nitrogen, with the aim of educating citizens on responsibilities, options
- Dena envisions a panel discussion. Participants discussed included someone from UNH; Rob Roseen, who is working on the municipal parking lot; and a landscaper or garden center employee
- Lincoln noted that Stratham will soon be designated a MS4 town, which will cost the town money. It was discussed having someone from the Public Works Commission come to the forum.
- Donna brought up greenwashing as an issue to be discussed
- Other topics suggested for the forum included septic systems, roof and driveway runoff

Minutes

- Pat motioned, Tim seconded a motion to accept the minutes of December 12, 2012, with the addition of “Makris” to the Bunker Hill development comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Kingston Wetlands Conservation District, regulations

- Lincoln presented copies of the Kingston regulations on a “Wetlands Conservation District.” He suggested possibly using their rating system as a way of valuing the function of wetlands.
- Bill noted that numerical systems such as the given example are not used by permitting agencies and would not be viewed favorably by them.
- Bill suggested having applicants complete a functions and values assessment of any impacted wetlands.
- Lincoln said he would seek input from the Kingston Planning Board on how valuable the rating system has been.

Mail

- The RCCD sent a bill of \$1800 for monitoring reports on 7 properties. It has been previously approved to pay. They were reviewed; all show no changes.
- The bond bank sent an invoice for \$15,000 for the cost to set up the bond.
- Goodrich closed at the end of December. Per this, the Sykas law firm sent invoices for a total of \$958; the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds sent a bill of \$52 plus an estimated \$260 recording fee for the easement; Premiere Settlement Services sent an \$1859 bill for the insurance premium. Pat motioned, Tim seconded a motion to pay the

four bills, with a maximum of \$300 allotted to pay the RCRD for the recording fee, out of the Land Conservation Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

- Two monitoring reports for the Jones' properties were submitted. There were no changes.
- DES sent two utility maintenance notifications: PSNH is cutting trees for transmission lines; Unitil-Granite State Gas are doing vegetative cutting in a pipeline right-of-way.
- Stratham Village Market is submitting renewal permitting for underground storage tanks.

Compost Bins

- The bins will be arriving April 1; it was decided to do clean-up on April 6, with a rain date of April 13.

Planning Board

- Lincoln provided an update on proposed amendments by the Planning Board
- One proposed amendment would create new cluster development regulations; Lincoln provided copies of the regulations
- Another amendment would make Gateway District regulations mandatory (currently they are voluntary)
- Owners of a 0.6 acre parcel on Emery Lane would like it rezoned to allow for an office building. CC members expressed concern about trees being cut down on the property, the size of the parcel, and changes to the residential nature of the surrounding area, but ultimately decided not to take a position.
- The Superior Court decided in favor of the PB with regard to the 70 Winnicut two-lot subdivision
- 32 Bunker Hill Avenue will be before the PB on January 16
- Kirk Scammon will appear before the PB in February regarding his proposed parking lot

Budget

- Donna will appear before the Selectman on January 15 to discuss the Commission's budget requests.

CMS, Beaver Issue

- Cooperative Middle School has approached the CC again regarding problems with beavers around the school's ropes course. The CC has noted that it will not provide financial assistance; it was also suggested that the school continue to wait and see how the water levels are throughout the seasons.

Easements

- The Goodrich easement has been finalized

Allison motioned, Tim seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25. All voted in favor.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held January 23, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary