

**Stratham Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes Public Session  
December 10, 2014**

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Allison Knab, Bob Keating, Bill McCarthy, Bill Kenny, Brad Jones, Tim Copeland

Town of Stratham employees present: Paul Deschaine, Lincoln Daley

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

*Rollins Hill Farm Development*

In attendance to present a conceptual plan for the proposed 46-home Rollins Hill Farm Residential Development were Jim Gove (Gove Environmental), Joe Coronati (Jones and Beach), and Rob Graham (Rollins Hill Farm, Inc).

The natural resources assessment for the property was presented by Jim Gove who identified a very high quality wetland with an Atlantic White Cedar (AWC) community and 4 vernal pools. Bill Pelick, a Portsmouth lawyer representing Jeffrey Friedman of N. Hampton stated that his client and some of his neighbors were very concerned that the AWC community might be harmed by the development and wished to conserve the land. Les Brihari of 6 Goss Road said he was concerned by potential of additional water removal from the tapped ground water aquifer; he wondered if the system could withstand another 46 homes drawing water from it. He added that Lindt (a commercial abutter removing water) draws a lot of water for commercial use; he also cited that wells had failed/gone dry at the Chisholm Farm development. Ms Mary Lynn Bean, who resides at the abutting Thornhill condos, stated the 70-unit Thornhill development had only 2-bedroom units and confirmed that 1 of the condo association's well had failed; currently the 2 Thornhill wells in operation withdraw 25,000 gallons a day. Rick Hurlihy, another Thornhill condo resident, wished to see a hydrogeologic analysis of the proposed residential development and was very concerned about additional water withdrawal, reminding the CC that Lindt had permits to discharge 40,000 gallons a day and cited the tremendous tax of the water in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. Kathleen Breslin, a Stratham resident, was concerned about the planned open space in the development.

Members of the CC had these comments for the proposed residential development: a hydrogeologic analysis conducted by a neutral third party is needed to ensure that the new development will not over-tap the ground water resource in the area; the buffer for the vernal pools and AWC swamp community must be maximized and as proposed the buffers are inadequate to protect the wetlands. (The Gove report suggested a 250-foot buffer, and that has not been met by the proposed plan; the NH Heritage Bureau suggests 300-foot buffer and a 100-foot minimum.) The proposed large residential lots should be deeded to limit the amount of impervious surface (for first-time and future owners) and protect the sensitive vernal pool and AWC communities from dangerous storm water runoff.

A site walk was proposed for Saturday Dec 20 following confirmation with the Planning Board.

*Budget*

The CC discussed its budget for 2015. It will request \$2500 for its operational budget and will not make a request for CIP funds.

*Mail*

Annual dues. Bob moved, and Pat seconded a motion to pay \$150 for the annual dues of the Exeter Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee. The dues will be paid in 2015 from the 2015 budget.

Pat moved and Alison seconded a motion to reimburse Donna \$60 for the fee paid to attend the annual meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions on Saturday November 1.

*Book Donation in the Memory of Caroline Robinson*

Pat asked that the CC purchase a book to make a contribution to the Stratham Memorial Library in memory of for Caroline Robinson. Bob suggested Crocket's Victory Garden (1977 published). Allison will first ask the library director whether it would be an acceptable gift. Donna volunteered to purchase the book when the title is approved by the library.

*Stratham Hill Park/Gordon Barker Town Forest, Forest Management Plan Project*

On the evening of Dec 10, 2014, the committee convened its first meeting; Allison, who serves as the CC representative on the committee could not attend due to the present CC meeting. However, from 7:30pm until 8:30pm, Bill McCarthy attended the meeting in her stead. Fred Bormann, UNH cooperative extension forester, discussed the topic of forest management plans.

At 9:05 pm, Pat moved and Allison seconded a motion to discontinue public session, to go into private, non-public session.

The meeting came out of non-public session at 9:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jensen