

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Public Session
September 10, 2014

Conservation Commission members present: Tim Copeland, Allison Knab, Bill Kenny, Bob Keating, Brad Jones, Donna Jensen

Town of Stratham employees present: Lincoln Daley.

Others: North Hampton resident Jeffrey Friedman.

Rollins Hill Development stakeholders: Pat Conway, Rob Graham, and Joe Coronati.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:02 PM

Rollins Hill Development

Pat Conway, Rob Graham, and Joe Coronati were in attendance to submit a conceptual plan for the Rollins Hill Development, a proposed 48-lot 55-year plus residential development in Stratham. The parcel is approximately 106 acres with 1 acre in North Hampton. The size of the lots varies between 30,000 square feet and 6 acres.

This proposed site includes an ecologically sensitive area that abuts both North Hampton and Exeter and is at the head waters for Dearborn Brook.

This is a large project that will require an alteration of terrain plan to be submitted to the state. The state will need to approve the storm water management plan for the project, which as proposed, will likely include infiltration features to ensure that storm water will continue to be shed as it is currently on the site. Due to the hilly topography of the property, its development will most certainly concentration water as it is shed of the site during storm events and spring melting.

As was discussed at its prior meeting, the CC discussed concerns regarding the wildlife corridor and wetlands impacts as well as the hydrology of the area, specifically how this would impact the Dearborn Brook area since that feeds into both North Hampton wells and the Exeter water supply.

The CC reminded the Rollins Hill development stakeholders that Pat Elwell had written a letter requesting that the planning board require a hydro-geological study and a natural resources inventory prior to the approval of this project. The letter was acknowledged by the developers. The natural resources inventory should be conducted in the fall, spring or summer seasons, and not in the winter, in order to be able to identify potentially significant flora and fauna in the area, vernal pools, and other important ecologically

sensitive features. The stakeholders expressed little interest in doing a hydro-geological study.

Jeff Friedman of North Hampton asked if the impacts to the Winnicutt River watershed were known. The developers answered, “no.”

The next stage of the process would be the October 1 planning board meeting/public hearing to accept the proposal as complete.

CC Meeting Minutes:

Tim Copeland moved and Brad Jones seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the August 27, 2014 meeting with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Allison will submit approved minutes to the town office.

Town Forest:

Lincoln has scheduled a joint meeting with Seth, the Rec Dept, and the Stratham Hill Park Association scope out a process to create a forest management plan for the park and/or town forest. Of concern is whether the park and forest should have separate forest management plans. It would be a goal of the town to put a forest management plan project “out to bid” so it could be in place in the Spring of 2015. The meeting is set for Monday September 29 at 6:30pm at the municipal center.

Bob Keating moved to adjourn, Tim Copeland seconded. The motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, September 24, at the Municipal Center. This is the evening of the Waterkeeper program presentation.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Jensen, Secretary