

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 12, 2014

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

Non-members present: Richard Barham, Lincoln Daley, Paul Deschaine, Debbie Foss, James Gove, Stephen Herzog, Bruce Scamman, Dena Stern

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Dates/Events

- Dena Stern, the educational liaison, is facilitating a talk by the Great Bay Waterkeeper, Jeff Barnum, currently set for May 14 at 6 p.m. Dena will ask other CC about their interest in attending and Jeff about doing a CC-focused presentation.
- Pat is planning to attend the WISE presentation
- The Town Meeting is Friday

AMEC and Unitil

- Unitil is replacing/moving a section of buried natural gas pipeline. A section is in Stratham parallel to 101; this section is overseen by Granite State Gas Company. Several sections of freshwater wetlands are impacted. There are no direct impacts to river or tidal marsh.
- The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place. It will be sealed with grout.
- In 2014 the company is preparing a permit application, needing an easement from the state. In 2015 the company plans to begin construction.

River Road Connector Road

- Gove and Scamman discussed the Subaru plans and proposed Gateway Road.
- The current plan affects 33,535 square feet (approximately 0.77 acres) of wetland. The road will permanently impact most of the wetland, which currently drains to a manmade pond.
- Subaru has said it will pay for part of the connector road.
- In terms of compensatory mitigation, the company could 1. Pay to a mitigation fund (money which would most likely leave town), 2. Pay for wetland restoration/creation (ration 1.5:1), or 3. Pay for wetland preservation, which could include upland buffer, requiring approximately 17-18 acres. The use of the Zarnowski property off of Boat Club Drive (for mitigation) was discussed. The property is approximately 29 acres.
- The CC expressed concern about a private business using the land in exchange for the destruction of a wetland. The CC had not previously been informed of the plan, which was created several years ago.
- The business plans to otherwise use some porous pavement, bioretention areas, grass panalways, and a pocket garden.
- The business will be before the PB again April 2.

Mail

- NHACC sent dues of \$317. Pat motioned, Allison seconded a motion to pay out of the CC budget. The motion passed unanimously.
- DES sent a notification that a Lovell Road homeowner had applied for a new septic and been rejected.

Minutes

- Pat motioned, Brad seconded a motion to accept the January 22 public and non-public minutes as written, with a change to Dave Short's name. The motion passed unanimously.

Elections

- Pat motioned, Bob seconded a motion to elect Allison chairman, Bill M. vice chair, and Donna secretary. The motion passed unanimously
- Donna raised the issue of having more alternates, but it was decided that three is a reasonable amount.

Planning Board

- A conceptual design is being done for an area just north of Lindt; it would involve dead end roads off a cul-de-sac with approximately 55 homes. There are questions about wet soil and density issues for the project.
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Other

- The CC is ordering 20 rain barrels. The company said it is making sure it has enough. Pickup is April 12.
- Pat will ask the police department for a speed limit sign during clean-up day. She is also preordering subs.

Bob motioned, Tim seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held March 26, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary