

Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Members present: Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Bob Keating, Bill Kenny, Allison Knab, Bill McCarthy

Non-members present: Paul Deschaine, Debbie Foss

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

Dates/Events

- Dena Stern, the educational liaison, is unable to coordinate the talk by the Great Bay Waterkeeper, currently set for May 14 at 6 p.m., due to time constraints. Bill Kenny said he would be able to coordinate but the date will have to be pushed back to sometime in September.
- Roadside Clean-Up is set for April 12. The selectmen have advertised it in their newsletter. Donna will pick up blue trash bags from Northeast Recycling and Recovery Assoc in Epsom, Pat will pick up subs and ask Paul about the dumpster, Brad will provide vest and gloves (needs a reminder closer to date), Pat will provide fliers to Stratham Memorial School, and Tim will get Lindt chocolates. Pat will bring her spreadsheet of sites to clean. At the next meeting we will decide where CC members will go on the clean up day.

Tree Thinning on Town Land

- Pat Elwell went on a site walk with Seth Hickey, Colin Lavery, Dan Crow, Dave Short, Edie Barker, Kim Woods. Dave Short also invited a logger to attend the walk (Bob Bosterick) through a 5-acre parcel off of Scamman Road, owned by the town. There is concern about wooly adelgid infestation of hemlocks on the parcel, which is immediately adjacent to the Stratham Town Forest and Stratham Hill Park.
- Dave Short proposed to the group cutting down trees on the Portsmouth Avenue side of Stratham Hill to provide a better view of the Great Bay. Pat felt a forester needed to be involved to make recommendations about any tree cutting. She will contact Colin about setting up a site walk for the CC.

Minutes

- Bob motioned, Allison seconded a motion to accept the minutes of February 12, 2014, as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Mail

- RCCD sent a bill for monitoring seven easements. Pat motioned, Bob seconded a motion to pay the \$1800 out of the Land Conservation Fund. The motion passed unanimously.
- RCCD sent its annual report for 2013.
- A brochure was received for the NE Recycling Conference and Expo happening the first week of June.
- DES sent information regarding Craig Benson of Soft Draw Investments/The Golf Club of New England. They may want to reduce monitoring requirements for their water withdrawals.

Master Plan Committee

- The Master Plan Committee is going to be asking the CC to look at our section of the document again. Pat is serving on the committee.
- Help from UNH, charrettes are planned.

Other

- As hunting in the park/forest is now banned per a vote in the Town Meeting, Bill M. asked if it was the Commission's job to post the area. The Selectmen are handling posting. Gordon Barker Town Forest markers are now in.
- The issue of dogs in Debbie Foss' yard was revisited. The CC expressed concern that a fence would fragment the open space, and that the neighborhood and trails are still in flux. Donna also suggested Debbie bring the issue up with the Planning Board.
- Paul said talks are ongoing with Exeter and Portsmouth regarding water/sewer
- Pat went to a meeting of Water Integration for Squamscott-Exeter (WISE), which will allow for an integrated plan for the watershed. Pat will ask them to come give us a presentation.
- Bob brought up the use of the Zarnowski property for Subaru and the road development, and the concerns the CC has about the use of the Zarnowski property by developers. Better communication between the CC and other town entities was discussed.

Pat motioned, Bill M. seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held April 9, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, secretary