

## Meeting Minutes Public Session

January 14, 2015

Conservation Commission Members Present: Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Allison Knab, Bob Keating, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe

Town of Stratham employees present: Paul Deschaine, Lincoln Daley

Others: Jeffrey Friedman of N. Hampton, Peter Wiggin of Stratham, NH

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm.

### Rollins Farm Hill Development

The site walk conducted on Saturday Dec 20 was attended by several Conservation Commission members and Planning Board members, as well as Paul Deschaine.

Many concerns were discussed:

1. It appeared as though during removal of trees from the property that wetland impacts may have already occurred. Peter Scamman of Stratham, NH who attended the site walk and was attendance at this meeting Conservation Commission meeting directly asked Jim Gove specifically about an area immediately adjacent to the proposed roadway (north side), and Mr. Gove agreed and wondered "if a flag was missing." Another area of potential wetland impacts was identified by Donna Jensen, who noted that gravel had been dumped in a logging "landing area" adjacent to Rollins Farm Road, which is flanked by wetlands on either side of the existing road. Stratham Planner Lincoln Daley suggested that the town would reach out to contacts at the Rockingham Regional Planning office, and particularly Mike Comeau, who could walk the site and evaluate the potential impacts and confirm the wetland delineations currently flagged.
2. Commissioners were very concerned about potential impacts on the site's wetlands. The Atlantic White Cedar community and vernal pools were of very high quality and large buffers (greater than those for generic wetlands) must be considered for this project. Conservation Commission members felt strongly that larger buffers recommended by the Army Corp of Engineers, which recommends a 750 buffer around vernal pools, be used on this development project. Similarly, the NH Heritage Bureau suggests at a minimum 150 foot buffer around Atlantic White Cedar swamps, and optimally a 300 foot buffer.
3. Pat Elwell hoped that the Planning Board should scrutinize the use of fire ponds for this site. The proximity of the proposed fire pond appears very close to a wetland and the wetland might be harmed during the construction of the pond.
4. Donna Jensen was particularly concerned about the site topography and the short-term negative effects of home and road construction, and long-term negative effects of reduced water quantity and quality, on the Dearborn Brook.

5. A hydrogeologic study, conducted by a third party, is recommended to examine water quality baselines for the development and adjacent properties.

6. A community well should be considered, given the history of wells failing on adjacent properties and the large amounts of water withdrawn from the adjacent Lindt property. If the newly proposed development had a community well, water withdraw would be monitored and would help to protect future home owners.

7. The lack of curbing on the proposed roadways is a concern, as untreated plowed snow would end up in sensitive wetlands including the Atlantic White Cedar swamp and vernal pools.

8. There are 15 building lots that are adjacent to the cedar swamp and vernal pool; the impact of septic-tank nitrogen on the wetlands should be determined. The buffer between wetlands and septic tanks could determine whether the Atlantic White Cedar can survive.

Pat moved, and Dan seconded a motion that a letter should be written to the Planning Board stating that given all these sensitivities, the residential development project must not move forward until the following questions are answered:

- What impacts would storm water and fifteen 4-bedroom home septic tanks from the proposed development have on the Atlantic White Cedar swamp and vernal pools? This should be determined by a consulting wetland scientist hired by the town.
- What impact will the proposed development have on Dearborn Brook water quantity and quality? What impact might it have on Exeter drinking water? This should be determined by a consulting wetland scientist hired by the town.
- And, that the property wetlands have been flagged and delineated by a third party.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### Annual Clean Up Day

Allison will confirm either April 11th or April 18 for the Annual Clean Up Day after talking with Seth Hickey of the Recreation Department. School vacation begins April 27th. Lincoln suggested an announcement for clean up and compost bin sales go out in the annual dog tag letter. Bill Kenny is the point person for compost bin sales this year; however, Pat will assist with the announcement.

#### Forest Management Committee

The committee members completed a survey to determine priorities for the management plan. Charlie Marino from UNH to discuss forest management with the committee at the next meeting.

#### Municipal Updates

Lincoln stated that the Exeter Subaru NH DES wetland permit is currently in review by the NHDES and the EPA. The Zarnowski property will be considered for wetland mitigation.

At 9:25 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 9:40 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jensen