

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2015

Present: Allison Knab, Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Donna Jensen, Tim Copeland,

Also, Ellie Baker, Environmental Planner from Horsley Whitten; Abigail Gronberg, Technical Assistance Program Manager from PREP; Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator; David Canada, Selectman; Bob Baskerville, Planning Board; Ms Katherine Breslin, resident, Bruce Scamman, resident

Public Session

The public session was called to order at 7:02pm.

Mailbox

Seth Hickey submitted a NHDES application for trail development with minimal wetland impacts on the conservation easement on the Short Property.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes for October 14 and October 28 were reviewed.

Donna suggested that the first sentence in page 2 be revised for clarity in the Oct 14 minutes; for the Oct 28 minutes, Rob Roseen's name was spelled incorrectly.

Pat Elwell moved, Bob Keating seconded the motion to accepted the meeting minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

Ellie Barker, Horsley Whitten Presentation of the PREPA Grant Subcommittee Meeting

The conservation commission commented to the draft memo dated November 19 with the proposed wetland regulations.

Of concern was minimizing hardship to existing lots and homeowners and that new regulations should exclude homeowners who would have nonconforming lots according to the new regulations. There was further discussion of what constitutes a use change.

Also of concern was developing a "safety valve" to relieve for existing sub-divided residential lots that may have a single vernal pool rendering them without developmental value. Allison stated that the proposed regulation to create large 250 foot buffer for vernal or exemplary natural communities is meant to protect these communities in large developments, such as the recently proposed Rollin Farm development. Should a smaller buffer be suggested? A 250 feet buffer is well below what is recommended from scientific experts for exemplary communities.

Short Property Easement Trail Correction

The trail correction process has been mapped out in this way.

1. Conduct site walk with homeowner and SELT on Friday Nov 20; provide homeowner with suggestions for trail movement
2. Visit Conservation Commission in December for discussion and vote for recommendations
3. Visit the Select Board to their approval, which would vote to move the trail. Any changes in trail locations need to be indicated in the conservation easement language, and thus, if there was a change it would need to be shown in a revised easement document.

Per email, Allison communicated that SELT acquired improved GPS equipment for a recent site walk and the coordinates seemed closer with those measures from Seth Hickey and the Recreation Department.

Stratham Hill Park and Town Forest Management Plan

On Tuesday November 23, the subcommittee is conducting a site walk to provide perspective on the forest management plan.

300th Anniversary Celebration

Rebecca Mitchell from the Heritage Commission suggested that our groups cooperate for a parade float. The parade is targeted in September 2016. Allison Knab agreed to contact Ms Mitchell from the Heritage Commission to state the Conservation Commission would prefer to do something individually. The commission would anticipate a cost of \$300 to create a banner and other expenditures for a possible float display.

December Con Com meeting

Tim moved, Pat seconded a motion to cancel the conservation commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday Dec 23. The motion passed.

Budget

300 anniversary parade \$300
 Clean up day \$400
 Compost bin and rain barrel sale \$2500
 Caroline Robinson book donation \$50
 NHACC dues \$350
 ESRLAC dues \$200 (an increase from 2014 recently voted upon by ESRLAC)
 Member workshops \$100
 Education \$300 (youth, Dena Stern, Stratham Fair)
Miscellaneous \$100
 Total \$4300 (minus \$2500 compost bins) = \$1800
 Capital Improvement fund. No funds will be requested for 2016.

Municipal Updates

Bruce Scamman noted that additional trees had been cut and dragged off the Town-owned Zarnowski property. The police have been notified of the theft.

At 9:14 pm Bob Keating moved and Pat Elwell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 9, 2015 7:00pm at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary