

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, July 22, 2015

Present: Bill McCarthy, Donna Jensen, Dan McAuliffe, Tim Copeland
Town Planner Lincoln Daley, Town Administrator Paul Deschaine
Chris Alpert, Jones and Beach Engineers

Public Session

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

New Business: 16-18 Coach Road NHDES Permit Application for Drainage Improvements

Richard O'Neil a property abutter to 16 Coach Road was in attendance to discuss the NH DES permit application, which the CC has approved for expedited review in June.

The landowner received a letter from Jones and Beach Engineers saying the plans were on file at the Stratham Town offices; however, when he came to the office to review the plans they were not available. Jones and Beach had not provided the plans as indicated in the letter, and for that Chris Alpert apologized. Mr. O'Neil was concerned that the drainage project might create additional water accumulation on his property. Mr. Alpert explained that it was unlikely that there would be more water, but there may be less water due to the fact the newly proposed drainage would allow for lower water velocity in the recreated drainage ditch with greater water percolation. The project would not create any new impervious surface and no additional water is anticipated from the road in the drainage ditch.

Tim Copeland explained that the Town (and CC) is not responsible for notifying abutters about project and NHDES applications such as this; doing so would create undue cost and burden to the town. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify abutters as a part of the process.

When asked by Bill McCarthy, the Conservation Commission (CC) did not feel that any new actions were necessary and the expedited NHDES permit should go forward as originally voted on.

8 Boat Club Drive

Spencer Tate from Meridian Land Services was in attendance to present a NHDES wetland permit application for the Frost Residence located at 8 Boat Club Drive. The permit presented rebuilding of the Frost's home, which was destroyed by a house fire in January 2015, located within the Shoreline Water Quality Protection area.

The plan included rebuilding of the structure within the prior' structure's envelope but with a newly proposed porch.

The homeowners stated that they were "homeless" but were at the property every day tending to their garden.

In reviewing the plans, Donna Jensen asked if the septic system could be relocated further from the river's edge because it would be disproportionately contributing nitrogen into the river and Great Bay watershed. Mr. Tate said that the home would tie into the existing septic system that was "less than 10 years old."

Tim Copeland moved, and Dan McAuliffe seconded the motion to approve the expedited NHDES application. The motion passed.

The homeowners thanked the CC for its approval.

Rollins Farm Development

The Planning Board's third party consultant from Stony Ridge Environmental, Cindy Balcius, provided the CC with a report of her findings (dated July 7).

Revised plans have not yet been provided to the CC or Planning Board. It is anticipated that newly revised plans will be provided soon and reviewed by the Planning Board on August 5.

Lincoln Daley noted that it has not been explained why the Rollins Hill Farm developers are deviating from the vernal pool and Atlantic White Cedar swamp community buffers (175 and 250 feet) proposed in the November 2014 Natural Resources Inventory by Gove Environmental. On this principle, the CC should write another letter to the Planning Board on the project.

Tim Copeland moved and Dan McAuliffe seconded the motion that the CC should write a letter to the Planning Board expressing:

1. The CC recognizes that the wetland delineations will not be reexamined at this time; the Planning Board has accepted the delineations provided by Gove Environmental.
 - a. This is contrary to the recommendations of the CC and the Planning Board's third party consultant Cindy Balcius.
2. The CC reserves the right to make comments on the updated plan set.

Mailbox

The CC discussed an email inquiry regarding the Scamman property easement and recreational activities; Bill will respond.

The NH Association for Conservation Commissions will hold its annual meeting on Nov7.

At 8:31pm Dan McAuliffe moved and Tim Copeland seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen