

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2015

Present: Allison Knab, Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Bob Keating, Bill McCarthy, Town Planner Lincoln Daley

Public Session

The public session was called to order at 7:06pm.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Pat Elwell moved and Bob Keating seconded the motion to approve as written the June 24 and June 10 public and nonpublic meeting minutes.

Mailbox: RCCD easement monitoring report

The Conservation Commission (CC) received a monitoring report from the Rockingham County Conservation Commission on the 28-acre Sanderson property conservation easement located off of Bunker Hill Avenue. The report noted evidence of a campfire on the conserved property. The report was provided to the Town Administrator for record keeping.

Mailbox: Concerned NH CCs

A letter was received from concerned CCs regarding its reservations about a proposed natural gas pipeline in southern NH. The letter requested that the Stratham CC join a letter writing campaign to Governor Hassan. Alison Knab will ask for the letter and project details in electronic format so it can be shared with the entire Stratham CC and Town administrators for consideration.

Municipal Updates: Grants

The Town learned that it was awarded 2 grants submitted in June. The first was a PREP Action Item Grant to receive funding that would be put towards re-evaluation and re-writing of the town's wet land setback regulations. The second was a PTAP grant to assist with re-evaluation and re-writing of the town's storm water regulations.

Municipal Updates: Heritage Commission Preservation Easement

The Heritage Commission has sought a preservation grant for the Collectors Eye property located at Stratham Circle. The grant would provide money to preserve the structural and water resources located on the site.

Municipal Updates: Agricultural Planning Board Subcommittee

Rockingham Planning Commission is facilitating review of possible new regulations for commercial farms in Stratham. The subcommittee, which includes Stratham farmers, is addressing concerns from commercial agriculture stakeholders expressed in March, and is also wordsmithing the regulations to precisely improve the newly proposed zoning regulations.

Rollins Farm Development

The Planning Board's third party consultant from Stony Ridge Environmental, Cindy Balcius, met with town representatives on July 1 and July 9 to discuss her review of the Rollins Hill Farm proposed development. On July 8, the CC was provided with a report of her findings (dated July 7), which included these important comments based on the developers May 22 plan set:

Page 4, point 3. "Although Stone Ridge Environmental (SRE) was not hired to review wetlands and soils, SRE did observe several areas where a view from an independent certified wetland scientist and certified soil scientist may be beneficial to all parties involved."

Page 5, point 6. "Permeable pavement...is more commonly used on driveways and parking areas and is not recommended for high traffic areas."

Regarding point 3, Peter Wiggin, a Stratham resident who participated in the 2014 site walk, noted that he was concerned that the wetlands were not properly delineated, particularly near the proposed roadway to the northwest of the Atlantic White Cedar swamp community and vernal pool.

At 7:51pm Bob Keating moved and Pat Elwell seconded this motion to adjourn the public meeting and go into nonpublic session sealing the nonpublic minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:12 pm, the CC came out of nonpublic session. Pat Elwell moved and Tim Copeland seconded her motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jensen