

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, May 13, 2015

Present: Allison Knab, Bill McCarthy, Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Bob Keating, Brad Jones, Bill Kenny, Dan McAuliffe, Select Board Representative Tim Copeland, Town Administrator Paul Deschaine, Town Planner Lincoln Daley

Public Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Minutes

Meeting minutes from April 8 and April 23 were reviewed. Pat moved and Bill McCarthy seconded the motion to accept the minutes from both meetings as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Rollins Hill Residential Development

Mark Stevens (Rollins Hill Development LLC), Rob Graham (Rollins Hill Development LLC), Jim Gove (Gove Environmental) and John Ring (Jones and Beach) were in attendance to review revised Rollins Hill Development plans dated April 22. Unlike the prior plan, the current plan has 47 lots, includes porous pavement, and an amphibian crossing. The plan now also includes a detention pond and an area of impervious pavement near the entrance roadway immediately adjacent to the headwaters of Dearborn Brook.

A RCCD letter addressed to Mike Houghton of the Planning Board reviewing the prior development plan was provided to the conservation commission. The RCCD letter outlined several concerns with the provided development plan. The RCCD letter was provided to the applicant at the time of the meeting.

Commissioners voiced their concern that wetlands may not have been delineated accurately at a specific area on the plan where the proposed roadway threads a needle between wetlands on the site and the adjacent property. There was discussion of having a peer review of that area of the plan and Jim Gove suggested Dr Frank Richardson of NH wetland bureau who administers across Rockingham County. Allison indicated that she or someone from the commission would make time to attend such a meeting.

Municipal Updates

Stratham Circle Collector's Eye Proposed Property Development

Lincoln Daley reported on the May 6 planning board meeting with the team proposing to develop the Portsmouth Avenue site of the Collectors Eye. There were many people in attendance voicing their concerns regarding the density of the proposed development and impervious surfaces adjacent to the Mill Pond; vehicular impacts to the flow of traffic at the circle; environmental impacts; and the use of the historic property on the site.

Forest Management Plan for Zarnowski Property Easement

Allison, Donna, Tim, and Bill Kenny participated in a site walk on May 7 at the Zarnowski property. There was some discussion of the site and concerns about accessing the property from Boat Club Drive. Also of concern were the existing easements on the adjacent Scamman and Sculler's Boat Club properties. Paul Deschaine stated that access would need to be gained from the Scamman property to minimize impacts to neighbors. Conservation placards should be appropriate to indicate boundaries for visitors.

There was discussion of the Zarnowski monitoring report from May 2015. It stated that Amillana fungal root rot was detected on some of the trees on the property close to 37 Rader Drive. There was evidence of unauthorized tree cutting. The commission recommended that the town code enforcement officer investigate.

Stratham Memorial School 1.4 Acre Parcel Donation

Paul stated that a donation of the property would be beneficial only if there are no deed restrictions on the property.

Post Event Issues from the April 18 Bin Sales and Annual Road Side Clean-Up Day

Bill McCarthy purchased coffee and donuts for the volunteers attending town clean up. The total was \$59.95. Pat moved and Donna seconded a motion to authorize the commission to reimburse Bill for the purchase. The town credit was used to purchase sandwiches at Market Basket on that day. The cost was authorized; however, the commission must also reimburse the town out of the commission's annual budget.

Stratham Hill Park-Town Forest Forest Management Plan

Seth Hickey will be attending the next committee meeting to discuss progress with the management plan.

Short Property Easement

Duane Hyde from Southeast Land Trust will be in attendance at the commission's May 27 meeting to discuss the easement language.

Town Master Plan Update

Lincoln stated there had been delays getting the master plan updates made due to competing priorities and lack of committee participation. Paul suggested that a consultant be hired to facilitate the update process.

Zone Improvements Related to Wetland Setbacks

It was suggested that the wetland setbacks may need updating. In the case of high-quality wetlands the setbacks should be increased to provide greater protection against wetland degradation from pollution and storm water runoff, and also to protect wetland habitats and the adjacent wetlands for species of amphibians.

PREP and other organizations have grants for such projects to provide municipalities with technical assistance in revising zoning.

The next meeting will be held May 27, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.