

## **Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, Sept 23, 2015**

Present: Bob Keating, Bill McCarthy, Allison Knab, Donna Jensen, Pat Elwell. Also Lincoln Daley, Town Planner, Cory Riley, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

### **Public Session**

The public session was called to order at 7:03pm.

### **Mailbox**

Public meeting minutes from September 9, August 12 and August 26 were reviewed.

Bill McCarthy made a motion to accept the September 9 minutes as written; Pat Elwell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Donna Jensen moved, and Allison Knab seconded the motion to accept the August 26 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously. Pat Elwell moved, and Donna Jensen seconded the motion to accept the August 12 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Great Bay Discovery Center**

Cory Riley from the NH Fish and Game and the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve was in attendance to review the NH DES wetlands application to replace the existing boardwalk at the Great Bay Discovery Center. The boardwalk was originally constructed in 1992 and has been used by approximately 1000 visitors and another 5000 school children for the last several years.

The project is planned to be constructed this winter before spring 2016 to minimize negative affects to the upland and wetland areas. The project is a complete reconstruction of the 1300 linear foot boardwalk. An important design consideration is that the project will use steel helical pilings rather than traditional wood pilings; the entire project will be constructed without heavy equipment and completely by hand. Pat moved to both recommend an expedited review of the NHDES minimal impacts permit and to write a letter to the planning board to support this position; Bill McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Allison Knab recused herself due to her involvement with the project's planning.

### **Local Conservation Commission Meeting**

Allison attended the most recent meeting of the group; a number of conservation commissioners attended the wetlands delineation workshop. Lincoln Daley mentioned nitrogen fertilizer application regulations are being considered in other towns within the watershed.

### **Municipal Updates**

Hazardous waste collection day is October 3 at the Exeter DPW building. The town is looking for Stratham volunteers to work the event.

PREPA grant meeting was Thursday September 17. The committee will be considering ordinances and/or land use changes related to site plan regulations for fertilizers and buffers for sensitive wetland resource areas.

The planning board subcommittee Land Use Regulations Concerning Agriculture has been meeting for months now that will be considering zoning and uses, definition of agriculture, animal husbandry, signage, farm stands and farmers' markets, agricultural site plan review and permitting. They will soon have a draft document to review and for presentation to the planning board. RPC is facilitating the meetings and process with Lincoln Daley.

High Street Willow Brook subdivision will be conducting a site walk to review the 9 lot project.

#### **Rollins Hill Development Operations and Management Plan Review**

Lincoln Daley reviewed the O&M plan with commissioners in attendance. Main questions to be addressed were the enforcement of the plan, and having a qualified licensed individual be the Designee to do the monitoring. Lincoln Daley expressed that the Board of Directors for the Home Owners Association should be responsible for keeping copies of monitoring and reports, and the town will request that records are kept for 10 years. Language should be revised to restrict access to properties near the sensitive resource areas. Access to the upland open spaces will not be restricted.

Declarations of covenants document did not include enforcement provisions regarding annual reporting for the O&M plan. This will need to be added.

#### **Short Property Easement**

There is a need to review the Short easement boundary as well as the easement exclusion area, as the yellow jacket trail may need to be adjusted. There may have been some inaccuracies in the GIS coordinates that outline the trails, which need to be clarified. Friday October 2 at 5pm, a site walk will be held by the conservation commission, Seth Hickey, and Debra Gourd from SELT. The plan is to meet at the log landing off of Scamman Road.

At 9:31pm Bob Keating moved and Pat Elwell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary