

Conservation Commission Public Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2016

Present: Allison Knab, Bill McCarthy, Bob Keating, Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Joe Lovejoy
Also, Town Administrator Paul Deschaine, resident Kathleen Breslin

Public Session

The public session was called to order at 7:05pm.

Mailbox, July 13 minutes

Elwell moved and Keating seconded the motion to accept the July 13 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no Conservation Commission meeting held on July 27, and thus, no meeting minutes to review for that date.

Mailbox, RCCD Monitoring Reports for RCCD-Held Easements

Monitoring reports were received for the 21-acre easement on the Hanna Property, which is now owned by Donald and Kathy Cook. The easement is held by the Rockingham County Conservation District; the agency conducted the review on July 11, 2016. No notable findings reported.

RCCD also provided reports for the Jones properties. The RCCD conducted monitoring on the 3 Jones properties (24.0, 34.4, and 34.0-acre parcels) on August 2. No notable findings reported.

Mailbox, Budgeting the RCCD Monitoring for Town of Stratham-Held Easements

An estimate for RCCD monitoring services was received in the mail. For the last several years, the Conservation Commission has paid for monitoring on 6 easements held by the Town:

Squamscott Scullers	4.5 acre
Batchelder Pond	8.3 acre
Batchelder Parcel	57.7 acre
Wiggins Property	12.9 acre
Adams Property	11.4 acre
Goodrich Property	52.6 acre

The cost of monitoring is estimated at \$1,718.50. The RCCD request that the estimate be signed and returned. The Batcheldor Parcel monitoring reported is needed before the end of the calendar year.

Municipal Updates

Deschaine provided municipal updates.

Exeter and Stratham officials continue to meet to discuss shared water and sewer utilities.

The regional drought is impacting Stratham communities.

Aquarion is providing emergency water withdrawals by hydrant for the Wiggin Way/Winterberry communities which have experienced water quality and quantity problems. It is not clear what sub-division's approval is needed to enact improvements: the home owners' association of Winterberry or Wiggin Way.

McCarthy moved and Elwell seconded a motion for the Conservation Commission to recommend to the Select Board that voluntary water conservation measures be put in place, similar to those asked for by the Exeter Select Board. (Specifically, voluntary ban on outside

watering of plants and lawns by automated systems; restricted to hand watering only of newly installed plants and vegetable gardens.) The motion passed unanimously.

The LCHIP preservation easement on the Lane Homestead at Stratham circle is ready to close. This happens in concert with the current owners selling the property.

Peter Wiggin has contacted the town to ensure that erosion control is being monitored at the Rollins Hill residential development, now under construction. Deschaine stated that Mark Morong occasionally monitors the site; developer consultant Robert Roseen was on site for porous pavement construction on the roadways.

Zoning amendments are in development by the Planning Board and Tavis Austen.

Per July 13 discussion with Sarah Arnold (Children's Librarian, Wiggin Memorial Library) and the Conservation Commission, the library book rest posts have been installed. Three such posts are located in the Gordon Barker Town Forest on a single trail near the foot bridge. The remaining rest posts are in the Stratham Hill Park.

The Select Board approved a new trail at Stratham Hill Park. Select Board member Lovejoy voted against the proposal.

Culvert work at the Merrill Farm is scheduled to begin this week.

Colin Lavery is evaluating the Gifford Farm back field for future uses. He will report his findings during the September 12 Select Board meeting.

Stratham 300 Parade, September 24

Lovejoy's trailer will be used for the float, although he will be away on the day of the parade, as will other commissioners (Copeland, McCarthy). The trailer requires a 2-inch ball hitch.

A vehicle to pull the float has not been identified. Elwell has determined that a compost bin is available for the float. Still to do are:

- Order banner, determine wording
- Find vehicle with hitch
- Determine if items will be handed out, such as Lindt candy, apples, seed packets, bulbs, pumpkin gourds.

Stratham Hill Park Trail Expansion

For the next meeting, Jensen asked that members bring their comments on the Stratham Hill Park /Forest Management Plan. The commission would like to provide written comments to the committee for the plan appendix.

Keating moved and Elwell seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 24, 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary