

Conservation Commission Public Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2016

Present: Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Tim Copeland, Donna Jensen, Bill McCarthy, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Joe Lovejoy. Also, Town Administrator Paul Deschaine, resident Nate Merrill.

Public Session

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

Meeting Minutes

Copeland moved and Elwell seconded the motion to accept the March 9 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Elwell moved and Copeland seconded a motion to accept the March 23 meeting minutes, with a minor revision to correct the spelling of "Gallant."

Mailbox, RCCD

RCCD provided the commission with notification of an upcoming meeting regarding climate and agriculture to be held on April 27.

Mailbox, Exeter Healthy Lawns-Clean Water Forum

A notice was received regarding an upcoming education forum. On May 4, the Town of Exeter will conduct a public outreach meeting on the wise use of fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and neonicitinoids. The program will be held at the Exeter High School at 6pm.

Mailbox, NH DES permit approval

The Commission received a letter stating it had approved a permit for Wetland Utility Maintenance by PSNH Eversource. This will allow the company to service its A126 transmission line. Jones agreed to invite PSNH to speak to the commission about its methodologies to cut vegetation.

Conservation Commission Officer Elections

Elwell moved and Copeland seconded a motion to keep the current commission officers in place: Knab as chair, McCarthy as vice chair, and Jensen as secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Jones agreed to continue to serve as an alternate on the commission.

Revised NH DES Wetland Mitigation-Local Conservation Property List

The commissioners reviewed the draft property list provided by Knab by email. There were no additional properties identified for inclusion on the list.

Annual Roadside Clean-Up Day Saturday April 16, 2016, 9am to noon Stratham Hill Park

The commission reviewed its plans to conduct the annual roadside clean up.

Lovejoy signed the sheet requesting free blue trash bags from NRRRA in Northwood, NH. Jensen agreed to provide the necessary signed paperwork to NRRRA describing the details of the clean-up day and the number of bags collected.

300th Anniversary Parade September 25, 2016

The commission discussed a Conservation Commission banner. Suggestions for the banner included the following language and details:

- "Hug a tree in Stratham."

- Use the Stratham 300 motto, "Inspired by the past, committed to the future" with the Stratham seal.
- Use the Stratham Hill Park/Stratham Recreation logo.

Staples or Sign of the Times could print the banner.

Additional float ideas were:

- Art made of recycled items
- Ask students to come up with themes for the conservation float
- Recycling demonstration or display

NHDES Wetland Impact Permit Application-Merrill Farm

Resident Nate Merrill described a culvert and tide gate replacement project planned for the Stuart Farm. The culvert spans a berm built in 1962 that serves to keep Squamscott tidal waters from flooding farmland. The berm is located in a portion of the farm that is currently under a conservation easement. Thus, the USDA and NRCS provided engineering services for the project.

Copeland moved and Jones seconded a motion for the conservation commission to approve an expedited review of the NHDES permit application. The motion passed unanimously. Jensen noted that the application was not yet completed; the project design was provided and presented by Merrill. Merrill will provide the completed application to the commission chair to sign as soon as it is available.

What Do You Conserve Suggestion Box

Elwell removed the suggestion box from the library and provided it to Jensen. Jensen will bring the box to the annual clean up day to survey volunteers.

The results will be provided to Dena Stern, education liaison and owner of the box.

Municipal Updates

Deschaine noted the upcoming May 11 meeting to discuss possible public water and sewer in the Gateway district.

Deschaine described a recent ZBA board discussion of "what constitutes nothing." Of specific interest is whether a patio is "nothing." Deschaine stated that a patio would create stormwater runoff and might be considered something. There will be another hearing to discuss this topic.

At 8:30pm Copeland moved and Elwell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 27, 2016, 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary