

Conservation Commission Public Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2016

Present: Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Tim Copeland, Allison Knab, Donna Jensen, Joe Lovejoy. Also, Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator

Public Session

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

Paul Deschaine introduced the new Select Board representative to the Conservation Commission, Joe Lovejoy, to attendees. Lovejoy is a retired CPA and successful business owner. He replaces the prior Select Board representative Tim Copeland. Copeland will continue to serve as an alternative member of the Conservation Commission.

Mailbox, Aquarion

A letter was received by Aquarion water company of Hampton. The letter notified the Conservation Commission that the company will be performing source water protection surveys this year, including for Aquarion production wells that are located in North Hampton and Greenland where the well head protection areas include land located in Stratham.

Conservation Commission Appointments

Terms will expire for commissioners Knab, Jensen, and Jones in 2016. During the meeting Knab and Jensen agreed to continue serving. The commission will ask Jones when his is in attendance. Lovejoy and Deschaine will notify the Select Board members, who will conduct reappointments.

Revised NH DES Wetland Mitigation Rules February 1, 2016

Attendees discussed the new rules and the need to have Stratham conservation projects reserved for when wetland mitigation may be necessary. This is now the first priority step in the process for wetland mitigations.

The group identified these "blue sky" possible properties, which will need meetings and discussion to validate and confirm with property members.

Dredge Mill Pond or Batcheldor's Pond

Barkers farm (phased in easement is a possibility)

Gallant property

Blueberry Bay farm

Stuart Farm riverfront

French/Emmanuel property

McDonalds property

Breslin property

Municipal Updates

Deschaine noted that the bond for money to provide public water to the gateway district was defeated. Deschaine stated that the next step will be to convene a wide meeting across relevant town commissions and boards to decide what the next step will be:

1. discontinue the initiative for now
2. try to pass the public water bond again next year
3. move forward with a public water/public sewer bond initiative with Exeter, which is now possible due to the fact that Exeter passed a bond article to build a new sewer treatment plant.

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

The following check list was itemized to prepare for the upcoming annual clean-up day. Elwell noted that she will not be able to attend this year but will assist with preparation. At the last meeting, Dan McAuliffe volunteered to put up the banner sign the week before the date on the Portsmouth Avenue lawn and Jones volunteered to bring safety vests and gloves.

The commission discussed these tasks:

- Knab will contact Seth Hickey to request the Stratham Hill Park sign is changed to indicate the event.
- Knab will email Colin Lavery to request assistance for trash bag pick up.
- Jensen will pick up the remaining compost bins at the DPW garage so they will be on site to sell on the day of the clean up.
- Elwell will order the sub sandwiches at Market Basket for pick up on the day of clean up.
- Elwell will make publicity flyers for distribution at the elementary school.
- Copeland will pick up coffee, cocoa, and munchkins to serve volunteers.
- Copeland has picked up the Lindt Chocolate to serve volunteers.
- Jensen has approximately 350 blue trash bags left over from last year and will bring them.
- Deschaine has reserved the Stratham Hill Park pavilion for that date, and ordered the dumpster from Bestway (now Casella).

300th Anniversary Parade September 25, 2016

The commission further discussed the parade but made no decisions. Keating discussed the use of his antique Ford truck. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Elementary School Garden

Knab noted that the Stratham Memorial Elementary School is creating a garden this spring. The educators involved are working with the UNH Cooperative Extension to create raised beds for plants and a dedicated pollinator garden. Knab would like the Conservation Commission to donate a gardening library book for the project. This will be discussed further at a later meeting.

At 8:26pm Copeland moved and Lovejoy seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 13, 2016, 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary