

Herring River Restoration Committee
19 February 2009
12:00 pm
CCNS Headquarters

Members Present: Gary Joseph, Mark Adams, Steve Block, Carrie Phillips, Steve Spear, Eric Derleth, Charleen Greenhalgh, Hillary Greenberg

Others Present: Jack Whalen, David Stott, Mark Forrest, Chris Adams

I. Low Lying Properties

A. CYCC

Review of current situation with regards to NHESP. Maintaining exiting course footprint is a viable alternative per NHESP. HRRC would recommend looking at filling on existing course. Derleth contacted Louis Berger Group and Howard Maurer and requested a scope of work to move this alternative forward. The scope consists of two tasks and includes: prepare golf course centerline alternatives and route plan and a geotechnical evaluation and report. If we move forward on this proposal HRRC will need to work very closely with CYCC. Whalen gave permission for the Committee to move forward with the geotechnical evaluation. A jurisdictional opinion will be filed with the local Conservation Commission. There is a 1:2 replacement ratio for protection of Eastern Box Turtle habitat. This protection must be done in perpetuity. We should move forward with the borings immediately so the course can be playable when the season starts.

B. Other Issues

Phillips initiated movement on appraisal of Rosenberg property. Feil and Niski properties were mentioned. A flood proofing plan was drafted for Niski a while back and submitted to him for review. Flooding properties without structures and vegetation change will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

II. EIS Timeline

A. Discussion of Scope of Consultant Contract

B. Alternative Development Workshop

C. Timeline Schedule

III. Project Coordinator

A. Search Status

Smith was going to be ready to go with the scope of the consultant contract but wanted to wait and see if stimulus money would be available. There was a meeting with Maggie Geist and Margo Fenn to discuss the project coordinator position. A proposal was submitted to HRRC members from APCC. Margo Finn would be primary team leader with the rest of APCC as back up.

Proposal goes through the Alternative Analysis step in the EIS. Today CCNS made a selection for their restoration ecologist position this will fill the vacancy left when John Portnoy retired. HRRC members will read the proposal from APCC and return comments to all HRRC members within the next two weeks.

IV. Army Corp Of Engineers

Sargent comes from the regulatory side of the ACOE. He commented that the ACOE would like to be a cooperating partner in the restoration project. Phillips sent him information that we have compiled thus far. Forrest thought we could tap them for wetlands impacts and planning assistance and feels it is better to engage them early. HRRC must be mindful to keep sergeant in the loop as it not expected that he can attend all meetings.

V.

NOAA Funding

B. Stimulus Funding Discussion

Block initially put in a place holder for Herring River for 20 million for the dike reconstruction. The project must be completed within a set amount of time and this does not seem possible within the next 18-24 months with the NEPA requirements. Forrest feels there may be an opportunity for additional funding in the near future. HRRC may want to consider a phased NEPA approach and focus on the new dike structure so we can be eligible for said funding. To phase the NEPA process we will need to readvertise a Notice of Intent and again hold public scoping meetings. Phase 1 would only include the dike replacement, not alteration of flow. Phillips will contact her regional NEPA expert and float this idea. Derleth put a place holder in to complete the golf course design and a redesign of the dike. He expressed that the projects will not be ready within the time frame. There is a low likelihood that this project will be funded though. Derleth will email Smith and see if he had anything ready to go. Derleth will also contact Berger. HRRC will not be ready for this stimulus package. We will consider being ready for the next stimulus package. A notice of project change will need to be submitted for changing the EIS/EIR.

VI. Hydrodynamic Modeling

Ask Rex to send out a copy of the invoice and the Gulf of Maine grant deadline for the money to be spent. The modeling committee will review this and make a decision. A vote was taken and it was unanimous. If there is a question on the modeling work, Derleth will be in touch with Kirk Bosma (WHG).

VII. Friends Update

The logo design contest was a great success. The project got a bit of publicity and a great design from a local student in the Nauset Regional School System. Liz Chapman had put a lot of time into this endeavor. The friends group met with APCC. APCC commented that they could give a talk on the restoration.

They may also be able to supply us with an intern sometime in the future. John Riehl met with the Friends of the Seashore. Bob Fitzgerald is working on the 501C3 application. Joseph and Riehl will be meeting with the Truro Board of Selectmen. The friends group also solicited volunteers to aid Jeff Hughes, local Herring Warden, in clearing the river. Volunteers could also volunteer in Herring counting. A kayak trip has been set up for May 13th and May 20th. Spear said the Friends have been a great self starting organization. This is a great partnership.

- VIII. 21 January Meeting Minutes Approval
Greenberg will add a subject line in emails. Resend meeting minutes.
Minutes approved unanimously.

- IX. Next Meeting
25 March 2009 at CCNS Headquarters.