

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
October 5th, 2017 7:00 PM
Enfield Public Works Facility, 74 Lockhaven Rd.**

Members Present: Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman, Alan Strickland (Chair), Jerold Theis

Excused/Absent: Jay Welenc

Others: Annabelle Bamforth (minutes)

Administrative

Alan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sue moved to accept the minutes of the September 7th meeting, Shirley seconded.

Discussion:

Correction needed on Page 3: Jerold clarified that did not present the “fishing allowed” sign to the Board of Selectmen, but that the Board had approved of a sign being placed at Harris Brook.

Correction needed on Page 2: Shirley clarified that she’d noted that there are some native plants that appear to be invasive.

The minutes were approved with those changes, with Gary abstaining due to absence at the September 7th meeting.

Discussion, Old and New Business

The Commission discussed the recent planning board meeting that had included significant discussion regarding the building development on Evenchance Road.

Chemical Spraying on Shaker Mountain

Alan went on to discuss a recent day trip to Shaker Mountain taken with Jim Oehler of NH Fish & Game. Alan said he noticed the effects of the spraying turning the invasive plants brown.

Shirley asked Jerold if he had received any additional answers about the chemicals; he said he did not.

Alan said that during this trip he gave Jim the Commission's letter to Fish & Game that advocates for the collection of data related to the benefits to wildlife following spraying. Alan said that Jim had noted that native songbirds would see the most benefit.

Jerold said that NH Fish & Game may conduct spraying in the future, and this data would be beneficial in that scenario.

Selectboard meeting

Alan attended the October 2 Board of Selectmen meeting to present the trail maintenance agreement prepared by NH Fish & Game and given to Alan; this agreement was approved by the Board.

Permits

Alan shared a number of permits that need to be reviewed and signed off by the Commission.

Roberts, Jim & Donna

This permit is a DES permit for 174 Crystal Lake Rd. (Map#44, Lot#14) to replace a retaining wall.

The owners are seeking to replace their retaining wall with the same structure.

Sue moved to approve the permit and Shirley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Roberts, Joseph

This permit is a DES permit for 436 Lockhaven Rd. (Map#47, Lot#12) to make improvements to a retaining wall. Mr. Roberts had requested feedback previously and has presented to the Commission before.

Mr. Roberts wants to remove a 12-foot section of the wall, which is currently a hazard. There is also interest in adding sand to the property.

Sue asked if sand was allowed to be brought in. Shirley said it's her understanding that sand may be brought in, but that there are limitations on the frequency and a permit is required.

Jerold questioned how high the water rises at this beach. Shirley said it depends on the time of year. She added that this property is on the north end of the lake where the water is shallower. She said she does not believe boats travel over there.

Alan moved to approve the permit and Shirley seconded.

It was noted that it appears that the owner is striving to properly make these improvements.

The approval passed unanimously.

Intent to cut

The Commission reviewed an intent to cut on property bordering the Rail Trail and Mascoma Lake. It appears the property owners intend to cut a fair amount, but it's not currently known how close the cutting will be to the lake. It was noted that any cutting close to the water should be considered carefully.

Library Island

Alan updated to Commission on the progress of "Library Island," Alan said that according to Scott Osgood, there is no known ownership of this island. The town would need to complete a process to take ownership. Alan said Scott said he could take care of that. Alan said he will continue to keep the Commission updated; this is the first step.

Shirley asked if this property is in a flood zone. Alan said it may be in a 100-year zone. Jerold said that he has observed that trees poking out before winter are covered in the spring in that area, which may be a reason why no one has taken interest in the land.

Alan clarified this is a long haul project and is moving one step at a time.

ZBA Variance/Special Exception Hearing

The Commission discussed upcoming applications submitted to the Zoning Board of Adjustment: one is for a variance to build a home within 50 feet of a wetland on a Crystal Lake Road property, and another is a special exception application to construct a driveway through wetland on this same property. The upcoming Zoning Board of Adjustment public hearing will be considering and voting on both of these applications on Tuesday, October 10th.

Alan asked Shirley if she could attend the hearing and determine if the Crystal Lake application warrants extra consideration from the Conservation Commission.

Shirley noted that a shoreland permit has been issued, but a wetland permit is pending.

It was noted that the driveway proposal includes a culvert crossing for runoff. The proposed driveway will be gravel and graded for proper drainage.

Adjournment

Jerold moved to adjourn the meeting, and Sue seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.