



**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
March 1, 2018 7:00 PM
Enfield Public Works Facility, 74 Lockehaven Rd.**

Members Present: Sue Hagerman, Alan Strickland (Chair), Jerold Theis, Jay Welenc

Excused: Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green

Others: Annabelle Bamforth (minutes), Tom Bonardi, Hank Haynes, Michael Seraikas

Administrative

Alan called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Approval of Minutes

Jay moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Sue seconded. The commission reviewed the minutes; Sue noted a correction needed for the spelling of her name. The minutes were accepted with a 4-0 vote.

Wetland Permit Application

Wetland scientist Michael Seraikas of Beaver Brook Planning and Design presented on behalf of Sandra and Hank Haynes (Map#22, Lot#7); the application is for new access and a driveway to be installed near Mascoma Lake. Hank Haynes and Tom Bonardi were also present.

Michael presented the permit application to the Commission. The property discussed is on a vacant lot; Tom Bonardi noted that he owns a camp nearby. Michael showed the Commission where wetland is located. He noted there is an old culvert plus an old section of road. He explained that the plan is to remove the culvert and construct a base; he said any present water would come through this point, with the anticipation that the ground will treat the water before moving elsewhere.

Michael told the Commission that he talked to DES before submitting the application.

Michael said that previous visits in fall showed no water present at the location; subsequent recent visits showed some water flow and said that he is expecting a spring stream. Michael said he believes much of the wetland is due to the old section of road. Jerold asked what treatment would be present; Michael said it would be groundwater filtration.

Michael explained that he would remove the old culvert, dig down about two feet and put in a new 12" culvert. Jerold asked if the driveway on the property is deeded; Michael confirmed the property is all part of a trust.

Michael said he completed a similar project in Newbury, and that the town approved of it and had appreciated the move. The commission reviewed the map and plans. Jay said it looked clear to him.

Alan said he didn't currently see any problems. Sue asked of the probability of runoff being excessive. Michael said their plans will slow runoff. Sue asked if Michael had historical data; Michael said there was none.

Jerold asked if a water barge was possible. Michael said it may be, and added that he would explore that possibility.

Sue moved to approve the Wetland Permit application for the property located at Map#22, Lot#7. Jay seconded the motion. The application was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Alan noted that he would like to see the project completion to see if it might be feasible to suggest this project as possibility for other property owners.

Ryan Aylesworth was welcomed by the Commission at the meeting. Ryan discussed his previous experience on a conservation commission in MA. He noted that there's a difference in some procedures; Ryan said that in his previous residence there was a part-time agent to complete site visits and draft minutes. Ryan asked the Commission for more information on what their role is in relation to the state.

Alan said permits are signed that need to be signed, and added that the Commission shortens some processes but the state is the issuing body. Alan said that the state listens to the Commission's guidance. Alan explained the mission statement is to protect the town's natural resources. He noted that he does necessary administrative work as it comes in and a lot of time is spent on outreach and education.

Alan explained to Ryan that there are 170 acres owned by the town, but the Commission is not in a place where they can do anything without an extensive plan required by the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT), and creation of such a plan is beyond the Commission's budget. Alan noted that these 170 acres are part of an easement.

Jerold said that some communities allow a portion of current use fees to go toward the Conservation Commission.

Ryan said he understood the logic and said he was not opposed to finding funding, perhaps through a grant search. Alan said previous grant seeking attempts have been made through the state. Ryan said he'd written grants for other departments, and said it may be possible to apply on behalf of the Commission.

Alan brought up Ted Diers' upcoming road salt talk and said he's been striving to publicize the event; he asked how the Commission felt about purchasing an ad from Valley News. Jay expressed support of the idea.

Sue moved to allocate up to \$200 for advertising the road salt talk in the Valley News. Jay seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Alan said that following Amanda Stone's presentation last month about wildlife management, she provided coded maps denoting wildlife "hotspots." The Commission discussed ways to promote these maps and integrate them with outreach.

Jerold pointed out that parcels on the map are not labeled. The Commission noted that these maps could be useful for several purposes including in considering potential development plans.

The Commission agreed to have put the maps up at town meeting for residents to view.

Jay discussed attending a recent UVLT meeting; he noted that they have money available for residents for agricultural purposes. Jay said there are several properties in town that may benefit from this funding; he suggested reaching out to those people. Alan agreed that it would be good to identify land owners and, then ask UVLT about taking further steps. The Commission agreed to go into more detail on this at the next meeting.

Sue moved to adjourn the meeting. Jay seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM with a 4-0 vote.