

Enfield Conservation Commission
Public Works Facility, Enfield
Meeting of May 5, 2016

Present: Gary Gaudette; Shirley Green; Sue Hagerman; Dwight Marchetti; Alan Strickland, Chairman; Jerold Theis; Paula Gillen, Recorder

Guests: Jim Taylor, Director, Enfield Department of Public Works; Amber Boland, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission; Steve Schneider, Enfield Town Manager

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review of April 2016 minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Gaudette to accept the April 2016 minutes as written. This was seconded by Mr. Strickland. The motion was approved with Mr. Marchetti abstaining.

New Business:

Well Head Management Protection Plan:

Amber Boland of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) is working with the Town to update the area's well head management protection plan and to uncover potential ways the Conservation Commission could assist in land protection within these areas. The UVLSRPC has been working on updating their well head management protection tools to identify areas of potential vulnerability, outlined on a potential contamination site inventory. Ms. Boland displayed a map illustrating Enfield's water supply is provided by four wells, Marsh, Prior I, Prior II and McConnell, and there are three well head protection areas (Prior I and II share one protection area). The Safe Drinking Water Supply Act authorized funding to develop these plans and Enfield's plan needs to be updated. The map delineates which areas could be affected by contamination based on groundwater movement. The State has a database with contamination sites and registered sites utilizing best management practices including above-ground fuel storage tanks and underground storage tanks. Many locations along Route 4 have potential to cause greater risk to the water supply. Using new land use labeling tools, six new potential contamination sites were identified within these well head protection areas. For example, next to the Marsh well in Canaan is a property with a business which restores old cars. The UVLSRPC has identified well head protection areas and identified potential contamination sources but has no way to protect the public water supply users from these potential contamination sites. They would like to introduce tools to the site plan regulations, perhaps a site plan review process and subdivision regulations, which will add another layer of review. Currently the State and Town will assist in cleanup after contamination has occurred, but the need remains for another layer of protection prior to a problem.

A question was raised regarding which jurisdiction would be responsible for cleanup in the Marsh well head protection area in Enfield, with the well itself being located in Canaan. Ms. Boland explained there is a large wetlands buffer around the well but currently there is no obligation for Canaan to assist Enfield in the event of a cleanup. Ms. Boland is willing to forward informational materials to Canaan.

Ms. Boland described prime wetlands and conservation land surrounding some of the wells, including desirable tier 1 and tier 2 habitat. There is no imminent threat to Prior I or Prior II wells. Overall vulnerability is very low with just one area of high vulnerability, that being McConnell. This is due to McConnell's large well head protection area and the number of septic systems contained within. Ms. Boland suggested it is prudent to have a plan in place to ensure groundwater and drinking water protection, perhaps considering purchasing abutting properties in areas of concern as they become available. When complete, she hopes the new well head protection plan will have some new tools and plans. She stressed the importance of town planning and zoning regulations which would require and regulate best management practices.

Mr. Taylor stated water is tested from two locations monthly. Also, there is yearly testing and a 3-year battery of scheduled tests including tests for lead, copper, radon, and arsenic, among others. The Town puts out a customer confidence report which is distributed to all residents who are Enfield public water users. The State tests underground storage tanks and has remediated Petco due to a leaking underground tank. Ms. Boland referenced the NH DES web site <http://des.nh.gov/onestop/> which contains searchable public reports.

Mr. Schneider and Mr. Taylor explained Lakeview has its own water supply. There are approximately 480 water connections for water only connected to the public supply. The Town of Enfield Department of Public Works website contains relevant reports.

Lovejoy Brook Bridge Project:

Mr. Taylor distributed the Lovejoy Brook Bridge replacement plan. It has been on the Town's radar for 10 years. When first identified on the hazard mitigation plan it was a highest priority repair item. The Town is moving along with hazard mitigation cost share with FEMA. The Town is preapproved for a grant and so is moving on to the permitting phase. The permitting phase will be using federal funds and Army Corp of Engineers so NH Wetlands, NH Shorelands, historic resources and archeological resources must be vetted for this project. Mr. Taylor asks the Conservation Commission to review the project and issue its approval to help reduce permitting time and result in a quicker turnaround time. The Conservation Commission will need to sign the application.

The crossing currently has two 36-inch concrete culverts. One is broken on the end and is not passing as much water as it once was. There are two sets of jersey barricades which are also deteriorating. The current plan will allow for pouring abutments further away from the actual side of the stream, span that

area, then take out the material that constricts the flow. It will pass fifty times more water than the current two culverts. The current rate of flow underneath is very fast, preventing various fish and other species from crawling along the bottom and traversing from the Lovejoy Brook habitat and the Mascoma River habitat. The new set up should greatly improve that. One of the more expensive components is the need to build a temporary bridge, requiring some of the permitting. The project requires removal of several large pines. Restorative trees and bank bushes will be planted and blended in upon project completion. The project is currently now at the design phase, with permits hopefully obtained in the fall, then bids obtained in the spring. Mr. Taylor discussed funding, which is 75/25. He stated the project would utilize top of the line erosion control.

Dr. Theis expressed concerns about debris falling into the brook during bridge demolition and construction of the temporary bridge and requested a letter be written outlining the Conservation Commission's concerns. Mr. Marchetti moved that the Conservation Commission draft a letter to the DES in support of the project but to include concerns regarding debris control during the project. Ms. Green seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Taylor will electronically distribute the application to the Commission members to facilitate review at next month's meeting.

Bog Road Culvert:

Mr. Schneider stated the culvert on Bog Road has collapsed and needs replacement with road repair. It is a small 24 inch culvert and is to be replaced with the same size culvert. The engineer is requesting the Conservation Commission's support. It is an emergency situation as the Town has repaired the road six times this spring. The culvert has 18 inches of road cover and is subject to heavy truck usage but with correct installation will produce an adequate result. Mr. Marchetti moved to authorize Mr. Strickland to sign the necessary documents to replace the culvert on Bog Road which is in dire need of replacement. Ms. Hagerman seconded. The motion passed with Dr. Theis abstaining.

Route 4A Vernal Pool:

Mr. Strickland asked Mr. Schneider and Mr. Taylor if a vernal pool located near 4A could be avoided during sewer construction. Mr. Schneider stated construction will be attempted to be beside the road but on the right of way. Mr. Strickland will show Mr. Taylor where this vernal pool is located.

Old Business:

“Old Motel” Property:

Mr. Marchetti asked for an update on the status of the portion of the “old motel” land which was bush-hogged. Mr. Schneider stated it will be used as a passive recreation area with picnic tables as it is not ideal for swimming. There are no plans for building there. The other “old motel” piece will have rest rooms/changing rooms. The Town is applying for a permit/grant, has met with the State, using TIF dollars, and developing plans for landscaping, a sidewalk and adding street lamps. The State may remove road pavement, making the road for emergency use only, as the area is to become a park, not a

drivers' cut-through. The existing roadway will be modified to better shed water with the hope to gain close to a 10-foot clearance.

Correspondence:

Dr. Theis distributed draft letters for commission members' review and discussion at the next meeting, one to the DES regarding the Bicknell Brook replacement bridge and the other to the Grafton County Conservation office regarding bobcats.

Intent to Cut: Eric Lundberg, Map #17, Lot #4, East Hill Rd and Choate Rd.

Trail Maintenance Agreement:

Mr. Marchetti questioned the trail maintenance agreement signed by the chairman without a vote from the Commission members or selectmen approval. Chairman Strickland apologized and as the agreement will expire in six months, it was agreed that no further action was necessary.

Conservation Talk:

Ms. Green has coordinated publicity on Bill Warren's May 19 talk entitled "Trail Cooking and Fuel for Your Body." Dr. Theis will pursue kiosk signage.

Old Home Day Hike:

The Old Home Day hike will be to Smith Pond. Mr. Strickland will coordinate details with Ms. Green to ensure adequate publicity is made available.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Strickland to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Gaudette and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.