



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Jim Battis, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 8 July 2013

MEETING MINUTES Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, cable television channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 603-886-6008.

A regular meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission (HCC) was held in the Community Development Conference Room of Town Hall.

Members of the Commission present: J Battis, K Dickinson, P Dubay, R Jurewicz, P Nappo

Members of the Commission excused:

Members of the Commission absent: T Boland, R. Brownrigg

Member of Town Staff excused: P Colburn

Board of Selectman Representative excused: N Brucker

Seating of Alternates: None

Called to Order at 7:01 p.m.

I. PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Wetland Special Exception – Proposed Buffer Impact

66 and 68 Derry Street

Map 165 Lots 145 & 146

Tony Basso, Keach-Nordstrom Assoc., Inc. representing the applicant, Clark, Greer, Latham & Assoc., Inc.

- A Basso: I brought the updated plans tonight (*Wetland Buffer Impact Plan, Derry Street Retail, Map 165; Lots 145 & 146, 66 & 68 Derry Street, dated May 28, 2013, Sheet 1 of 1*). We have a proposed permanent buffer impact of 16,462 SF. It is up a couple of thousand SF from the prior plan but it is still only buffer impact. There is no wetland impact. It is the same area we showed before and discussed at the site walk with the exception of a truck turn around that was added at the request of retailers who will occupy these spaces. This added some buffer impact. We moved one of the buildings forward. That had no impact on the buffer impact. I stated at the last meeting, as I knew this would happen, we needed to get final comments which we have gotten at this point. Everything else is still the same. Storm water is under the parking lots and discharged into the wetlands after it is treated and detained. We will still silt fence the area and use proper best management practices for the storm water and the earthworks done on the site. There is not a lot of difference from the last meeting and what we talked about at the site walk.
- P Nappo: You had a concern about the parking spaces. Are those taken care of?
- A Basso: Yes.
- J Battis: We had discussed at the site walk about the catch basin in the parking area of the carwash and I would like it stated for the record. Your intention is to put an oil trap on the catch basin?
- A Basso: Yes, it is.
- J Battis: Will you be raising the curbing because we did see evidence of overflow.
- A Basso: We will repair the curbing back there so it does not overtop and we will add an oil/gas separator to that catch basin. Those can be stipulations.
- R Jurewicz: On the original plan you had a retaining wall.
- A Basso: We still will. The retaining wall is the buffer impact. It goes a little further into the buffer around the truck turnaround area. It will be inside our described buffer area and we will not be going into the wetland.
- R Jurewicz: It appears that the truck turnaround is significantly beyond the original wetland.
- A Basso: It is not into the wetland. There was a lot of upland there.
- K Dickinson: Removal of all of the invasive species in the buffer should be done. Any replanting in the buffer should be with appropriate species as suggested by a wetland scientist or a landscape architect.

Motion to recommend the Wetland Special Exception with stipulations:

- I. Construction and restoration shall comply with: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONTROL NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: A GUIDE FOR CITIZENS AND TOWN OFFICIALS (NH Dept of Environmental Services – Current Issue.)
- II. During construction and restoration erosion control barriers shall be installed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer.
- III. An oil trap shall be installed in the existing catch basin at the northwest edge of the carwash parking lot, on the applicant’s property, and improvements shall be made to the existing curbing in this area to prevent storm water overtopping of the curbing and directly entering the wetland.

IV. During clearing for construction in the buffer area proper methods for the clearing and disposal of invasive species shall be used to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer.

Motion by: K Dickinson
Second by R Jurewicz

Discussion:

- K Dickinson: It makes sense for the site given the level of previous modifications to the wetland area. I don't have a lot of concern for the buffer because it matches the existing slope on one end and tying directly into it. The design is proper for the proposed use.
- J Battis: I pretty much agree with Mr. Dickinson's comments. The area is essentially an urban area. All of the storm water for the site will be pre-treated before it is injected into the wetland and there is not necessity for the buffer which we usually look at as a treatment area. Especially in this area the buffer provides little habitat value. There is no strong reason to maintain the buffer at this site. I also agree about the invasive species and we should probably start adding that as a standard stipulation if they are present.

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- K Dickinson: As a further note, it is an isolated wetland and that heavily weighted on the decision to move to recommend.

III. NEW BUSINESS

None

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

- Mr. Battis discussed the herbicide treatment of Robinson Pond that was performed on 27 June. Mr. Battis stated that he would contact the NH DES Exotic Species Program Coordinator, Amy Smagula, to seek her input on the effectiveness of the treatment. Mr. Battis stated that we needed to authorize expenditures for the DASH operations for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Our plan calls for 10 days of DASH operation, at \$800/day, split equally between Ottarnic and Robinson Ponds. In response to a question from Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Nappo reported that following the treatment at Robinson Pond he saw no visible floating pond lilies and when you look deeper you could see the fanwort and milfoil were degrading and did not look healthy. Mr. Battis stated that he understood that the milfoil and fanwort would die off over a two or three week period. Mr. Nappo also reported that he did not see any impact on turtles or fish. Mr. Dickinson recommended that the motion, constraining only the total expense, would give flexibility to the actual number of days of operation at either pond. Mr. Battis concurred.

Motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$8,000.00 for DASH operations at Ottarnic and Robinson Pond for the remainder of 2013.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Second by P Nappo

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- Mr. Battis stated that he had a discussion with the Town Engineer about knotweed, which, as many members of the Commission were aware, it is a problem at the Musquash Conservation Land. Mr. Battis reported that Mr. Colburn was aware of several state programs for control of invasive species and would do some research on control recommendations and assistance we might get. Mr. Dickinson stated he was aware of grants for ecological restoration.

B. Circumferential Highway Impact

- Mr. Battis reported that he and Mr. Jurewicz conducted a site walk on 16 June to the wetland in the Circumferential Highway right of way at the end of Constitution Drive. This is the northern end of the proposed circumferential road. He thought there may be issues with grades and filling at this point due to the topography. Mr. Jurewicz also noted the steep grades in the area with the narrowness of the right of way could complicate the project. Mr. Battis stated that the wetland at this point extended about half the width of the right of way forcing the roadway to the southwestern side of the right of way which has the most terrain. He will send out a map and several photographs taken during the site walk. Mr. Dickinson recommended the Commission conduct another site walk in the next month between Kimball Hill Road back to Speare Road and then on towards Constitution Drive. This is an area that is more upland. The wetland that would possibly be impacted is an isolated, shrubby wetland at the base of a very steep drop.

Site walk for Circumferential Right of Way Wetlands between Kimball Hill Road and Speare Road set for Thursday, 18 July at 6:30 pm.

V. Financial Status

- Mr. Battis noted that because the Town has just entered the new fiscal year we had no financial information in our packets except for an accounting of the donation and capital reserve accounts which remain unchanged until the invoice for the herbicide treatment is processed.

VI. Correspondence

- The Chairman noted that the Commission was copied on two letters issued by the Town Zoning Administrator, Bill Oleksak, to property owners concerning work within the Wetland Conservation District. The first letter is to the home owner at 91 Pelham Road, Map 200; Lot 004-000 regarding filling of the wetland and buffer and is a cease and desist order from the Town. The second letter is for a property owner at 13 Williams Drive, Map 248; Lot 012 concerning the disturbance of a wetland and buffer. The letter is also a cease and desist order.

VII. Minutes

- Mr. Dickinson noted that there were several grammatical errors but will limit his comments to spelling. He thought the minute taker could save some effort by using more abbreviations.

Motion to approve the 8 April 2013 minutes as amended.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Second by P Dubay

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- Mr. Dickinson made several suggestions for condensing future minutes. Mr. Jurewicz concurred with the use of abbreviations but felt also noted that the commentary should be as close to verbatim as possible. Mrs. Dubay stated that the minutes were not supposed to be verbatim, as stated in the introductory paragraph, but rather a summary. She noted that the video is available if people wanted to see the exact wording. Mr. Battis said that he felt the minutes were taking too much time and suggested that some condensation could be gained by providing near verbatim minutes for applications, like Derry Street, and summaries for general discussions. Mr. Dickinson stated that he found he often had to reread sentences to understand them and the minute taker might be able to clean up some of the run-on sentences.

Motion to approve the 13 May 2013 minutes as amended.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Second by R Jurewicz

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Motion to approve the 10 June 2013 minutes as amended.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Second by P Nappo

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

VIII. Commissioner's Comments

- J Battis: If anyone is interested in getting on the Conservation Commission we have openings for three Alternate positions. The applications are available at the Town Hall and on the Town Website.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: R Jurewicz

Seconded by: P Dubay

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

James Battis, Chairman