



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Ken Dickinson, Chairman

Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: August 14, 2017

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: William Collins, Elliott Veloso, Randy Brownrigg, Michael Tsu, Raimundo Matos, Ken Dickinson

Alternates: Brett Gagnon, present

Paula Hubert, excused

Members of the Commission absent: Michael Tranfaglia, excused

Member of Town Staff: Elvis Dhima, present

Board of Selectman Representative: Dave Morin, excused.

Seating of Alternates: Mr. Gagnon seated for Mr. Tranfaglia by the chairman at 07:05 p.m.

Called to Order at 07:04 p.m. by Vice Chairman Randy Brownrigg

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items:

Eagle scout candidate Owen Sullivan and scout troop leader Joseph Undercoffler came before the commission to provide an update on the stream crossing project that Mr. Sullivan had chosen to complete as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Undercoffler told the members present that both bridges for the crossings have been built and are now in place. Vice-Chairman Brownrigg thanked both for their efforts and wished Mr. Sullivan good luck with his remaining efforts to become an eagle scout.

I. OLD BUSINESS

None

II. NEW BUSINESS

Commission chairman Ken Dickinson arrived at 7:09 p.m.

A: Wetland Special Exception Application – 21 Frenette Road, Map 168, Lot 101-000

Description of work to be performed: Raze the existing single-family home, foundation and pool. Excavate for a new foundation and build a new home on the property. The new foundation and home will be located on the site to meet town front and side setbacks requirements. An existing utility shed onsite will also be moved towards the rear of the lot. Total permanent wetland buffer impact being proposed is approximately 790 square feet.

The wetland in question is located approximately eighty feet from Frenette Road and runs east to west across the property. It was described as a “no value/ low functioning 6ft. wide storm-water runoff swale” which handles snow melt and storm-water runoff on the property. There is no evidence of ponding or that water flows into or out of this swale to offsite sources. After thorough questioning by commission members and expert testimony by Bruce A. Gilday of BAG Land Consultants (Certified Wetland Scientist for the State of New Hampshire) along with input from the town engineer, HCC members present were satisfied that an incursion of a new foundation and house built in the outer edge of the wetland buffer would have no detrimental effects on the function of the swale to dissipate storm-water runoff. It was unanimously decided to recommend that the Wetlands Special Exception Application filed by Ronald J. & Johanna M. Sousa of 21 Frenette Road for the permanent wetlands buffer impact of approximately 790 square feet be excepted with the following stipulations.

1. Construction and restoration shall comply with: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONTROL NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: A GUIDE FOR CITIZENS AND TOWN OFFICIALS (NH Department of Environmental Services-Current Issue.)
2. During construction and restoration erosion control barriers shall be installed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer.

Motion By: William Collins

Second By: Randy Brownrigg

Vote: Favorable with Conditions: 7 Unfavorable: 0 Abstaining: 0

Dissent Reason(s): None

For further details related to this case please review the televised presentation on HCTV channel 22.

The Chairman called for a five-minute meeting recess at 08:05 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 08:10 p.m.

B: Wetland Special Exception Application – Blue Bird Self Storage, 256 & 266 Lowell Road, Map 228, Lot 007 & 008.

Paul Chisholm, PE, and project engineer for Keach-Nordstrom Associates presented a conceptual site layout plan for a 112,500-square foot climate controlled self-storage facility located on property adjacent to Lowell Road. The plans also show the construction of an access road around the facility that would have a permanent wetland buffer impact of 8,024 square-feet and a detention pond that will have a permanent wetland buffer impact of 7,130 square-feet. Along with the plan set Mr. Chisholm provide commission members a form letter from the NH Natural Heritage Bureau and a letter from BAG Land Consultants. The letter from the NHNHBB stated that a database check turned up no listing of “sensitive or endangered species” in the project area. And the letter from BAG Land Consultants simply indicated that the site was inspected and flagged along the jurisdictional wetlands. After a short presentation and a few questions by commission members it was decided to do a sitewalk of the proposed build area before considering a recommendation of a wetland special exception for the project.

A sitewalk will be held August 24, 2017 at 06:30 p.m. Members who can make should park in the Walmart parking lot as there is little room for multiple cars at the site.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A: Kiosk Trail Map- Review Physical samples and Quotes

Mr. Dickinson displayed a new trail map of the town forest created on material that may be more resistive to fading and degradation from environmental conditions. Though not complete it was decided to hang the map at the town forest kiosk to confirm how well that new material will hold up to the elements. Mr. Veloso added that the sample trail map was donated by Jim Battis of 6 Potter Road, a motion was made by him to thank Mr. Battis for his time and effort.

Motion by: Elliott Veloso
Seconded by: William Collins

Vote: For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

B: Merrill Park Subcommittee Formation and Discussion of Restoration /Repair Action Plan

The Commission members present discussed the formation of sub-committee to address some of the deficiencies noted at Merrill Park. The purpose of the sub-committee will be to analyze current conditions and then present to the rest of the commission possible improvements to the site to make it safer and more appealing to the public for daily use. A motion was made by Mr. Collins to form the Merrill Park Subcommittee.

Motion by: William Collins
Seconded by: Raimundo Matos

Vote: For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Chairman Dickinson appointed Mr. Collins chairman of the subcommittee and will seek member volunteers at the next meeting to also serve on the subcommittee.

C: Power Tool Purchasing

A short discussion among commission members took place about the possibility of purchasing gas powered tools to make trail clearing duties a bit more efficient during trail work days. Mr. Collins provided some information as to cost and types of equipment that could be used. Members present thought the idea was good but warranted a bit more discussion before making any decisions on the matter. If the idea moves ahead a line item would be added to the next budget to cover the cost of these tools.

D: Meeting Minutes – General Review and Format Discussion

Mr. Collins asked the members present to approve changes to the formatting of the attendance section of the minutes. The new attendance format will help make tracking those attending the meetings easier. Mr. Collins also asked that the commission members consider allowing the Recorder of the Minutes to sign the final approved minutes. He explained that this would lessen the burden on the Chairman and would expedite the current process. The Chairman asked the members if there were any objections to the changes, seeing none a motion was made to allow the changes to the Attendance format and Final Minutes approving signature by the recorder.

Motion by: William Collins

Seconded by: Elliot Veloso

Vote: For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

IV. FINANCIAL STATUS

No outstanding issues noted with the current financial report.

Mr. Gagnon was excused from the meeting at 09:35 p.m.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reviewed the correspondences provide by staff for tonight’s meeting. The correspondences included:

Quarterly Lake Side Publication

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest Notes Magazine

Invite from the NHSIC for a presentation to be held September 22, 2017 in Lancaster NH.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Conservation Commission meeting and workday minutes for July were submitted for acceptance.

Motion made to accept July 10, 2017 Conservation Commission meeting minutes as amended.

Motion by: Michael Tsu

Seconded by: Elliott Veloso

Vote: For: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

4.

Motion made to accept the minutes recorded for the July 06, 2017 Merrill Park Site Walk and the July 08, 2017 Musquash Trail Workday as amended.

Motion by: Elliot Veloso
Seconded by: Mike Tsu

Vote: For: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

VII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Collins mentioned that a demonstration of the NRPC MapGeo application has been scheduled for September 13, 2017 and encouraged the members to sign up for the event.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion by: Michael Tsu
Seconded by: Elliott Veloso

Vote: For: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 p.m.


Ken Dickinson, Chairman