

HUDSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

MEETING MINUTES – Final

Page 1 of 3

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 on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:06 P.M. in the Community Development Room of Town Hall. Chairman Rumbaugh presided.

Members of the Commission present: Ken Dickinson, Michelle Champion, Tim Quinn, Linda Kipnes (7:30 P.M.) and Suellen Quinlan (Alternate-7:25 P.M.)

Members of the Commission absent: Bob Haefner, Jim Battis, and Ray Orner (Alternate)

Member of Board of Selectmen Present: Ken Massey (Liaison)

Also in Attendance: Ed Mercer (93 Highland Street), Joanne & Adam Sgouros (43 Cottonwood Drive), Tobin Farwell (Farwell Engineering Services, 275 Wadleigh Falls Road, Lee, NH), James Kegley (5 Griffin Road)

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Mercer expressed concern about the construction of the new PSNH sub-station on Power Street. As an advocate of Ottarnic and Little Ottarnic Ponds, there seems to be an over abundant amount of calcium chloride being spread on the road during construction. Mr. Mercer stated that at the beginning of the construction, there were two pallets and now there is a tanker truck spreading the mixture from Highland Street to the construction site on Power Street. Calcium chloride is one of the detriments to the watershed as it may promote some of the growth of the invasive plants in the ponds. Additionally, some of the barriers have been knocked down due to four wheelers going through and the barriers are not being put back in a regular and timely manner. Selectmen Massey commented that the Town Engineer represents the town's interests and Mr. Mercer should contact Gary Webster at the Town Engineer's Office about his concerns. Public Input closed at 7:13 P.M.

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. Case Tax Map 203 Lot 42, Joanne & Adam Sgouros of 43 Cottonwood Drive request a WSE to construct a retaining wall within the Wetlands Conservation District. Mr. Tobin Farwell of Farwell Engineering Services represented the homeowners and presented highlights of the plan which include: a request to disturb the wetland buffer adjacent to the Merrimack River; the backyard has a pool, shed, gazebo, landscaping, and retaining walls; and, at the edge of the backyard is a 15 foot drop-off. Mr. Farwell said the house was built in 1967 and the pool and structures were added in 1997. Due to the steepness of the grade and flooding in the last couple of years, the soil is settling towards a small tributary to the Merrimack River. The homeowners want to construct a retaining wall to retain the current edge of the backyard and to stabilize the pool area, shed area, and the gazebo. The new retaining wall will connect to an existing retaining wall along the property line. The construction will only impact the wetland buffer. The wall will have an under drain to allow the existing ground water to leach out and back into the drainage area. Chairman Rumbaugh asked what will be the buffer impact. Mr. Farwell replied 100 square feet – permanent and 700 square feet – temporary impact. Ms. Champion asked about the location of the wetlands. Mr. Farwell replied that the wetlands were flagged by Gary Flaherty, Certified Soil Scientist. Ms. Champion asked if the pool, shed, and gazebo were in the buffer. Mr. Farwell said yes and that the pool is at least three-fourths is in the buffer. Mr. Dickinson asked about the flood plain elevation. Mr. Farwell indicated an elevation of 110 NGDV of 29 and said the property is on the flood zone and the homeowners have submitted to FEMA for a flood certification. Mr. Dickinson asked why a cast in place was preferred over a versa lock system. Mr. Farwell replied the cast in place wall will disturb less area. Chairman Rumbaugh asked for the height of the wall. Mr. Farwell said the height is approximately 12 feet high from the footing and there will be earth against the back and front side. Three feet of the wall will be exposed. Ms. Champion asked how the wall will be built. Mr. Farwell said the plan is to use an excavator to dig a trench for the footings, manpower to set the footings, a concrete pump truck, either manpower or a crane to set up forms for the wall, and then an excavator to grade back the site once the wall is done.

MOTION by K. Dickinson to conduct a site walk scheduled for Wednesday, 9/19/2007 at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of viewing the property prior to providing a recommendation. **SECONDED** by M. Champion. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

HUDSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

MEETING MINUTES – Final

Page 2 of 3

2. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Robinson Pond, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) – Mr. Kegley presented the 2009 budget to monitor water quality at Robinson Pond. Based on increased prices (2X) from the State of NH, he is requesting \$1,080. Ms. Champion asked if the data collected is used to detect early problems. Mr. Kegley replied that the data is used to develop a baseline. Mr. Dickinson asked if we need to monitor the water quality every year. Mr. Quinn commented that perhaps one of the reasons why there is little change in the data is because the people are aware of the monitoring program and he does not want to leave a window open for abuse. Mr. Quinn is in favor of testing every year.

MOTION by T. Quinn to add \$1,080 to the 2009 HCC budget for the VLAP at Robinson Pond.

SECONDED by S. Quinlan. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

B. Robinson Pond NH Lakes Association Membership – Mr. Kegley presented the 2009 budget to participate in the NH Lakes Host program. He is requesting \$300.

MOTION by M. Champion to add \$300 to the 2009 HCC budget for NH Lakes Association Membership –

Robinson Pond. **SECONDED** by S. Quinlan. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

C. Robinson Pond Lake Host Program – Mr. Kegley presented the 2009 budget to participate in the NH Lakes Host program. He is requesting \$1,250. Mr. Kegley informed the members of some statistics collected: activity of the pond was comparable to the previous year; 1,000 boats inspected of which half came from places other than Robinson Pond, which he attributes to the easy access from I93 and Route 111; a large number of people brought their boats to Robinson Pond for their maiden voyages; and he confirmed with NH DES that the boat usage at Robinson Pond is comparable to some of the larger lakes in the State. Ms. Champion asked for a clarification on the number of saves. Mr. Kegley said of the 78 saves, 2 saves were catching invasive plants on boats entering the pond and 76 saves were catching invasive plants on boats exiting the pond. Ms. Champion asked about the decrease in high boater awareness from 2005 to 2007. Mr. Kegley said this not indicate that the program doesn't work, but that the number of new owners of boats that come to Robinson Pond that need to be educated on invasive plants. Additionally, the pond was last treated with herbicide in 2002 and will need another treatment in mid-to-late spring 2009.

MOTION by M. Champion to add \$1,250 to the 2009 HCC budget for NH Lakes Host Program – Robinson

Pond. **SECONDED** by S. Quinlan. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

D. Ottarnic Pond, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) – Mr. Mercer presented the 2009 budget to monitor water quality at Ottarnic Pond. Based on increased prices (2X) from the State of NH, he is requesting \$690.

MOTION by S. Quinlan to add \$690 to the 2009 HCC budget for the VLAP at Ottarnic Pond.

SECONDED by K. Dickinson. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

E. Ottarnic Pond, NH Lakes Association Membership – Mr. Mercer presented the 2009 budget to participate in the NH Lakes Host program. He is requesting \$300.

MOTION by L. Kipnes to add \$300 to the 2009 HCC budget for NH Lakes Association Membership – Ottarnic

Pond. **SECONDED** by S. Quinlan. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

F. Ottarnic Pond Lake Host Program – Mr. Mercer presented the 2009 budget to participate in the NH Lakes Host program. He is requesting \$1,100.

MOTION by L. Kipnes to add \$1,100 to the 2009 HCC budget to participate in NH Lakes Host program –

Ottarnic Pond. **SECONDED** by S. Quinlan. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

G. Ottarnic Pond request for future pond clean-up funds. Mr. Mercer gave a timeline of the pond's clean-up efforts: Spring 2005 – full treatment (milfoil eradicated, saw aggressive summer growth of fanwort), Spring 2008 full treatment, Spring 2009 – secondary treatment

HUDSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
MEETING MINUTES – Final
Page 3 of 3

Other Business Continued:

MOTION by M. Champion to create a warrant article for \$15,000 to treat fanwort in Ottarnic Pond in the spring of 2009. **SECONDED** by L. Kipnes. **MOTION CARRIED** (6-0).

H. Conservation Walks (M. Champion) – No interest from the public. Will reschedule in September 2007.

I. Prime Wetlands Study (T. Quinn) – VHB needs the GIS database from the town. Mr. Quinn met with Steve M. and Lisa N. and they have agreed to contact VHB to find out their requirements. Mr. Quinn indicated that once the GIS mapping is done, the HCC will need to select the specific sites and send letters to homeowners.

J. CC Budget 2009 – (S. Rumbaugh) – Ms. Rumbaugh gave members copies of the proposed goals and objectives and the budget. She asked members to review and send comments to her.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

From: Northeastern Consulting Forestry Services, Leo Garneau
Re: Violation of the Hudson Zoning Ordinance, 13 Williams Drive, Hudson, NH
Received: 8/27/2007. No Action Taken

From: NH Department of Environmental Services, Gloria S. Andrews, P.E.
Re: Kara's Crossing, Alternation of Terrain Permit
Received: 8/24/2007. No Action Taken

From: NH Department of Environmental Services, Vanessa Burnes
Re: Tax Map/Lot: 226-1, Complete Forestry Notification
Received: 9/7/2007. No Action Taken

From: Town of Hudson, Conservation Commission
Re: NH DES Dredge and Fill Permit Application filed January 2007 Green Meadow Golf Club DES File No. 2007-00201
Sent: 8/24/2007 to NH DES Wetlands Bureau, Bill Thomas

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Defer approval of August 13, 2007 minutes until October 2007.

5. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Board of Selectmen (K. Massey) – The BOS is encouraging the planning board to re-visit the village overlay district.
- B. Open Space (M. Champion) – Next meeting is 9/25/2007 at 7:00 P.M.

6. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

L. Kipnes – Announced CTAP Workshop on 9/29/2007 and Creating a Green Sanctuary Workshops held at the Unitarian Church in Nashua on October 4, 11, 25 and November 1, 8 starting at 6:30 P.M.

M. Champion - Thanked NRPC for setting up a satellite hazardous waste date in Hudson. Although it was a very light turn-out, Ms. Champion noted that at least 75% of the people were first time users.

S. Rumbaugh – Thanked M. Champion for the excellent letter she wrote to the NH DES on the Green Meadow D&F application.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Rumbaugh declared the meeting on September 10, 2007 adjourned at approximately 9:54 P.M.

Submitted,
Sandra Rumbaugh
Next Meeting - October 15, 2007, 7:00 P.M. Town Hall.