



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER -

A Meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order on Monday January 22, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Room.

Eric Starr, Vice-Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Tom Martinson, Alternate Member
Andrew Duane
Karis Welsh
Ellen Kolb

Members of the Commission Absent

Steve Perkins, Chair
David Trippett, Alternate Member
Danielle Melanson, Alternate Member
Andy Hunter, Town Councilor
Gage Perry

Also Participating:

- Keith Curran, Project Engineer, Bohler

Vice-Chair Starr designated Commissioner Martinson to sit in as a voting member.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

- **Keith Curran (applicant) and Gleason Co. LLC (owners) – Review for recommendations to the Planning Board regarding a site plan to construct a 7,650 s.f. manufacturing building with associated office space & other associated site improvements. The parcel is located at 63 Turbine Way in the**

I-1 (Industrial), Aquifer Conservation, Elderly Housing Overlay, and Town Center Districts. Tax Map 5D-1, Lot 5.

Mr. Curran explained that the business in question works with stone fabrication and has been in town for more than 20 years. There's no retail on site. There are few employees, and 9 parking spaces are anticipated for the new construction. This project went before the Planning Board in December and is scheduled for another Planning Board review on February 20, 2024.

He has not yet submitted paperwork to the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) relative to the project's location in the shoreline protection zone; the Merrimack River is just to the east of the project. He has already received comments from Town DPW, Police and Merrimack Village District; Fire department comments are pending. The Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee will get a report on the project as well.

No work is planned within 50 feet of the river. The project will not add impervious surface to the property; there is existing impervious surface due to earlier development. The planned building will go on an existing slab. Water and sewer are already on site. The Planning Board expressed concern about erosion control and stormwater management, and those will be addressed in the plan before it goes before the Planning Board again.

Commissioner Welsh asked him to clarify that there will be no change in impermeable surface. Mr. Curran replied that any new impermeable surface will be offset by removal of asphalt from existing surfaces, resulting in little or no net change. In response to a comment from Commissioner Kolb, he confirmed that all construction debris would be removed from the site.

Vice-Chair Starr said that the Commission recommends the use of straw rather than hay in erosion control measures, and wants snow removal to be performed by Green SnoPro certified contractors. He asked about plantings or landscaping in the project. Mr. Curran said that the project would seek a waiver of such requirements. Any areas where pavement is removed will be loamed and seeded. Commissioner Welsh asked if a particular seed mix would be used, and Mr. Curran said yes, and that specific information would be included in the final plan. Vice-Chair Starr to send Commission comments to the Planning Board.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- **Conservation Commission Social Media: Subcommittee Content** – *Submitted by Karis Welsh*

Commissioner Welsh said that this item (which she asked be placed on the agenda) was more about social media policy in general rather than the Facebook

page itself. She said that one of the subcommittees wants to create a Facebook group, separate and not related to the Conservation Commission Facebook page. Since we want good management of social media, should there be a policy for subcommittee groups?

Commissioner Martinson asked if any other subcommittee had a Facebook page or group. Commissioner Welsh said no. She added that there has been talk about that in the past, but no one wants to deal with the moderation that would be necessary for any Facebook group. Commissioner Kolb suggested that Commissioner Welsh check with Mr. Lavallee of the Town's Media organization, to find out if such groups are in use for any other Town-related board.

The Commission's consensus was that a subcommittee can set up a group - I.E. no one can prevent that - but the group must not be anything official on behalf of Conservation Commission or the Town. Vice-Chair Starr commented that for any such group, if a moderator loses interest or is otherwise unable to monitor the group actively, someone needs to be aware of that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion by Commissioner Welsh to approve the January 8, 2024 Conservation Commission minutes with the following amendments.

Page 5, Line 186 Change “posts can be scheduled at least one month in advance” to “posts be can scheduled up to one month in advance”

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Duane

Motion Carried

4-0-1

Abstained Commissioner Kolb

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Martinson

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Duane

Motion Carried

5-0-0

The January 22, 2024 meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 6:50pm.