



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

603 424-3531

Fax 603 424-1408

www.merrimacknh.gov

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AUGUST 1, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 6:39 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Vice Chairman Matt Caron presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Michael Boisvert
Cynthia Glenn
Gage Perry
Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member
Gina Rosati, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent:

Also in Attendance: Liz Petrides, Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS

1. Visit with the new member of the Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee

Liz Petrides of the Wildcat Falls Conservation Area Sub-Committee to introduce herself and visit with the Commission.

Liz Petrides stated she moved to Town about 4 years ago, and began walking the trail system. Having walked several, she found Wildcat Falls to be the one she enjoys best. Walking there sometimes 2-3 times a week, the area has become familiar to her. She spoke of being on the Michael LoVerme Memorial Foundation (adopted Wildcat Falls). Wildcat Falls is near and dear to her heart, and she wants to help preserve the experience for others.

Ms. Petrides spoke of a desire to support the goals of the Town. She commented she has tried to encourage the Sub-Committee to take advantage of social media opportunities to promote the trails, and remarked if that is an area where she can provide assistance, she would be happy to.

Commissioner Tenhave noted Ms. Petrides was provided with an electronic copy of the Sub-Committee's Charge. When asked about historical documentation, Commissioner Tenhave stated it is possible he could have a folder set aside at Town Hall for Ms. Petrides to review.

Vice Chairman Caron remarked each year the Michael LoVerme Memorial Foundation conducts a project at Wildcat Falls, and questioned if the date of this year's project is known. Ms. Petrides responded what is currently planned is a meet up, which is slated for August 13th. The intent is to walk the park as a social event, e.g., picnic in the park and walk the trails. The ulterior motive is to look around to see where benches could be placed. The long-term plan is to put in probably 2 regular benches along the trails, and beyond that a memorial bench, if possible. There is also the desire for a clean-up day later in the fall. Commissioner Tenhave noted Mr. LoVerme has requested a copy of the plans for the benches that were done by Eagle Scout James Jolly. Efforts are being made to provide that information.

When asked for additional information on the Michael LoVerme Memorial Foundation, Ms. Petrides spoke of a 5K that is conducted in October, which is where most of the revenue is generated. Revenue also comes in the form of donations.

Ms. Petrides commented she and Karen Labonte spent some time moving gravel to the area around the kiosk in an attempt to keep dogs from defecating in that location. Unfortunately the effort has not had the desired outcome. One of the initiatives of the Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee is to put in place a container for dog bags.

Commissioner Tenhave commented on having seen employees of the Public Works Department cleaning beaver debris out of the infiltration pond in the area. He requested they speak with Lori Barrett, Operations Manager, and if there are any suggestions for preventing the buildup, to make the Commission aware.

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Election of Chairperson

Commission to take up the election of a new Chairperson. This item is continued from its last meeting.

Vice Chairman Caron called for nominations.

**COMMISSIONER GLENN NOMINATED GAGE PERRY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MERRIMACK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE 2016-2017 TERM
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT**

ON THE QUESTION

When asked if he would accept the nomination, Commissioner Perry stated he would.

**VOTE ON ELECTION OF GAGE PERRY TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE MERRIMACK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE 2016-2017 TERM
MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual inspection and walk of the Wasserman Conservation property

Commission to discuss when and how to perform its annual walk and inspection of the Wasserman Conservation property. This is required by the LCIP agreement the Town made with the State of NH when the property was purchased.

Commissioner Caron stated a very extensive walk of both the Wasserman Conservation Area and the Greens Pond parcel was conducted the previous weekend by him and representatives of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC). There were occasions where they went off the trails to mark significant landmarks, e.g., stone walls, a jeep (Greens Pond parcel; trail named Willys trail), vernal pools, etc. They also walked the Fitness Loop, and noted the location and function of every station along the loop. Those that require repair were identified.

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of the form/report that has to be completed in order to meet the requirements of the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) agreement. He questioned if the area of encroachment was viewed, and was informed it was not. The issue was raised by Steve Walker, Conservation Stewardship Specialist, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, has been included in the file, and should be addressed in the report. Commissioner Tenhave stated a willingness to follow up on the issue. Vice Chairman Caron will prepare a write-up on the information gleaned from the site walk, and provide it to Commissioner Tenhave. Commissioner Tenhave will reach out to the NRPC for GPS data, and will follow through with the completion of the report.

When asked, Commissioner Tenhave stated the Wassermans offered the entire property, two parcels (what is now the conservation side and the park side) to the Town at a reduced price in the early '90s. The Town sought out funds from the State. When accepting LCIP funds, there are certain restrictions applied to the property, and there is a requirement for annual inspections. The Town accepted the funds and contributed some of its own to

acquire the properties. The conservation site, 80 acres, was deeded referencing the restrictions. The Town also took ownership of the park side, which has some of the restrictions, but not many.

2. Proposed changes to the Shoreland rules (Env-Wq 1400)

Commission to discuss the letter from Tracie Sales of NHDES asking if Commissions wish to provide input on certain changes being proposed.

Commissioner Tenhave stated the letter was a request through the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions to see if the Commission wished to weigh in on proposed changes.

Chairman Perry remarked he would be hesitant to comment as he did not find the information provided to be very informative. Commissioner Tenhave stated there is no requirement to respond, and that the item was placed on the agenda simply to bring it to the attention of the Commission.

Vice Chairman Caron suggested the letter be forwarded to George May, Chair, Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee. Commissioner Tenhave will forward the letter to Mr. May.

3. Moose Plate Grants

Commission to discuss utilizing the NH Moose Plate Grant Program for 2017. Applications due by 9/16/16. See: <http://agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/scc/grant-program.htm>

Commissioner Tenhave commented a good deal of information is required to be provided with an application, and the deadline is fast approaching.

Chairman Perry commented the program seems to be very broad, e.g., they look at land conservation, water conservation, etc. Commissioner Glenn remarked the applications she viewed seemed to be in the \$20,000 range and lower. Commissioner Tenhave suggested a project that could seek funding through this grant as opposed to the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund grant is the redo of Woods Road for Grater Woods. Without the engineering for the project, and given uncertainty of how formal a project application has to be, he is unsure if this is something the Commission could consider moving forward with at this time. He noted the opportunity to apply for such funds comes around yearly. The Commission may wish to put together a listing of major grant opportunities, timelines, requirements, etc. With sufficient time to prepare, the Commission could submit applications in the hope of leveraging Commission dollars.

Chairman Perry suggested the information should be provided to the Sub-Committees as well. Commissioner Boisvert volunteered to work with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions to gather information on grant opportunities. Commissioner Tenhave noted there is typically at least one session on grant writing provided at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (first Saturday in November).

OTHER BUSINESS

- Update on Jeff Littleton's work at our Continental Boulevard property

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of an email received from Jeff Littleton, Moosewood Ecological LLC, indicating work is progressing.

- NRPC Trail Mapping update

Vice Chairman Caron reiterated the mapping of the Wasserman Conservation Area has been completed. The next property to be mapped is the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP). He questioned if the Commission wished for Old Kings Highway to be including in the mapping of the HHNP.

Commissioner Tenhave noted it is a Class VI road/emergency lane. Because it is an emergency lane it is maintained. He suggested there is no reason not to include that information as a feature. The down side is someone will think it is a trail. Chairman Perry commented in 2010 the Town bought property to preserve Old Kings Highway. Commissioner Glenn was in favor of highlighting the history of that area.

- Update on no-cut buffer area along HHNP and Wasserman Heights

There was no update to report.

- Update on encroachment into Wasserman Conversation Area

There was no update to report.

- Update on Anheuser Busch Volunteer Opportunity

Chairman Perry has reached out, and is awaiting information on the type of activity of interest.

- Website Update

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of an email exchange he had with Wendy Wetherbee, Wetherbee Creative. The intent would be to place the matter on an agenda in August to allow the Commission to review some of the ideas/thoughts she has, and provide guidance.

During their conversation, Ms. Wetherbee mentioned having had a discussion with Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager, NRPC, regarding a common look and feel between the website and the maps. There might be a slightly different expense on one side or the other in order to accomplish that. Commissioner Tenhave requested the information be provided to the Commission for consideration.

- Wedding Request

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of an email exchange he had with a party wishing to have a wedding at the Overlook (off of Beebe Lane). They were looking to confirm that September 24th is good, and asked if they could put up some temporary decorations; no nails or screws.

Commissioner Boisvert commented the email suggested the wedding guests would be walked to the area from the abutting residence. Vice Chairman Caron noted reference in the letter to leaf blowing, and stated his opinion leaf blowing is not a good idea as it would likely lead to other users of the trail wandering into the backyard of the residence. He suggested that activity be discouraged. Commissioner Tenhave will respond to the email, and copy the Commission.

- 10 Brookside Drive Invasives / Downed Tree Limbs

Commissioner Tenhave stated he drove by the site of where the herbicide treatment was done, and spoke with the owner of the neighboring property. He stated his opinion the herbicide treatment was 90-95% successful in putting an end to the invasives in the area. There are some small plants and small areas that should be cleaned up.

Commissioner Tenhave noted lawn clippings continue to be deposited in the area. He suggested engaging with the Wastewater Department as they have a storm drain system in the area, which currently has downed trees inside of it, etc. Commissioner Tenhave remarked the Commission does not technically own the property, but manages it. It was set aside because it is a wetland, but it is also a storm water system.

Commissioner Tenhave noted on the property there are a few tall trees that have been dead for a long time. During a wind storm a few weeks ago, one of the main trunks of a tree dropped off, hit and damaged the deck railing of the neighboring property, and landed in the backyard. There is concern with the remaining dead trees. The resident has requested the trees be trimmed to avoid further damage. Chairman Perry suggested the Public Works Department (PWD) be contacted, and asked if they could address the situation.

Commissioner Tenhave commented addressing the invasives is known to be a long-term commitment, but at present, the most pressing issue is that of the trees.

Commissioner Glenn spoke of having received an email from Amy Casparius, Secretary, Community Development, regarding a tree in the HHNP that lost a limb. There was no resulting damage to an abutter's property. However, the resident has expressed concern. Newt Coryell, Chair, HHNP Sub-Committee, visited the area over the previous weekend, believes it to be an issue requiring addressing, and intends to speak with the PWD.

Commissioner Boisvert informed the Commission of a large Maple tree that is down across the Red Maple Trail (area of Conservation Drive). Vice Chairman Caron stated he would take care of that issue.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. June 20, 2016

The following amendments were offered:

Page 1, Line 47; insert "data" before "access"
Page 1, Line 58; replace "issued" with "issues"
Page 2, Line 27; replace "problems" with "problem"
Page 3, Line 16; replace "schedule" with "scheduled"
Page 9, Line 33; replaced "need" with "needed"
Page 10, Line 7; insert "a" after "raised"
Page 10, Line 23; replace "River" with "Rivet"
Page 11, Line 25; insert "stated" before "eventually"
Page 12, Line 53; replace "height" with "width"
Page 14, Line 47; replace "burrows" with "burls"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI
MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0**

Merrimack Conservation Commission. July 18, 2016

The following amendments were offered:

Page 3, Line 10; replace "infiltrations" with "infiltration"
Page 3, Line 26; remove the comma after "A"
Page 9, Line 40; replace "ERMS" with "TERMS"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-1**

Commissioner Caron Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE THAT THE COMMISSION ENTER NON-PUBLIC SESSION
PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3, II(d) CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE OF REAL OR
PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH, IF DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC, WOULD LIKELY BENEFIT A PARTY OR
PARTIES WHOSE INTERESTS ARE ADVERSE TO THOSE OF THE GENERAL COMMUNITY
MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN PERRY**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: 6 (Cynthia Glenn, Tim Tenhave, Gage Perry, Gina Rosati, Mike Boisvert, Matthew Caron)

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

*The Commission entered non-public session at 7:40 p.m.
The Commission reconvened at 9:17 p.m.*

Commissioner Tenhave stated the Commission sealed the minutes of the non-public session by way of a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY VICE CHAIRMAN CARON TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN
MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0**

The August 1, 2016 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan