



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER -

A Meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order on Monday August 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Steve Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Eric Starr, Vice-Chair
Ellen Kolb
Gage Perry
Andy Hunter, Town Councilor
Andrew Duane, Full Member

Members of the Commission Absent

David Trippett, Alternate Member
Karis Welsh, Full Member

Also Participating:

- Eric Gerade, Civil Engineer, VHB
- Chris Guida, Certified Wetlands and Soil Scientist, Fieldstone Land Consultants PLLC

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

- **Fidelity Investments (applicant) and FMR Merrimack Realty Trust FID (owner) – Review for recommendations to the Planning Board regarding a waiver of full site plan review to permit utility upgrades on the Fidelity campus. The parcel is located at 1 Spartan Way in the I-2 (Industrial) & Aquifer Conservation Districts and Wellhead Protection Area. Tax Map 3C, Lot 191.**

Presentation of the site plan was made by Eric Gerade. Present but not speaking was Ken Dodd of Fidelity. Mr. Gerard explained the project is to replace

switching equipment, improve infrastructure, and provide a redundant electrical feed to the Fidelity campus. This includes installation of electrical lines on 24 new utility poles over a distance of approximately 3,200 feet along the discontinued ramp near exit 10 of the Everett Turnpike.

Existing switchgear will be removed when the new switching equipment is installed. Burial of the new lines is not practical due to the presence of high ledge, and the proximity of wetlands and conservation lands. Part of the project requires tree trimming along the toll road, but they will keep it as minimal as possible. Utility poles will be three feet off the edge of the pavement and there will be clearing ten feet of the edge of the pavement to allow proper clearance from the wires. Work will mostly be trimming except where it is absolutely necessary to take down whole trees. They will be staying out of all wetlands, but because they are still working closely to them, they are proposing erosion control measures.

Commissioner Kolb requested that the design specify that no hay is to be used as part of erosion control during construction. She explained straw is recommended instead of hay to reduce the possible introduction of invasive species.

Commissioner Perry asked what material would fill the Siltsocks used for erosion control; Mr. Gerade said that it is composted material.

Chair Perkins to send the Commission's recommendations to the Planning Board.

- **Dougherty Zibolis, LLC (applicant/owner) - Review for recommendations to the Planning Board regarding final approval of a site plan to construct a two story, 15,000 SF office/warehouse building with associated site improvements. The parcel is located at 101 Herrick Street in the C-2 (General Commercial), I-1 (Industrial) and Aquifer Conservation Districts. Tax Map 3D-2, Lot 020.**

Presentation of the site plan was made by Chris Guida. He did the wetlands delineation of the site in 2017, when a project for MiBox was considered for the site but ultimately not built. Commissioners noted that much of the site plan for this project uses data from the 2017 work.

Commissioner Kolb said that one of the notes on the plan said there was a special exception granted by the Zoning Board dated 2017; what was that for? Chair Perkins said he thinks it was necessary to create the access road for the project; Mr. Guida agreed. Commissioner Perry asked for details on how stormwater is going to flow through the proposed development. Mr. Guida reviewed page 5 of the site plan to point out the paths. Commissioner Perry asked about maintenance requirements for the stormwater management system; Mr. Guida replied that he didn't know for sure but could check with the project's engineers and send the Conservation Commission an email in reply.

Chair Perkins to send the Commission's recommendations to the Planning Board.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- Discussion regarding student representative to the Conservation Commission

Councilor Hunter expects to attend next Thursday's Town Council meeting (8/17/23) to make the case for amending the Town charter to permit a student representative to the Commission. He will be returning from a trip that day, and in case his flight is delayed, he'd like for a Commissioner to be at the meeting to address the issue if needed. Commissioners Perry, and Kolb said they could attend if necessary. Commissioners noted that the Commission and the schools already work together; with Commissioner Perry noting that Grater Woods is the middle school's biggest neighbor. Commissioner Duane said that a senior project had been done at Wildcat Falls last year.

- Chair Perkins announced that hunting season begins on September 1, 2023. Blaze orange attire is appropriate for hikers and their pets. Hunting is permitted in Grater Woods and Horse Hill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion by Commissioner Perry to approve the July 24, 2023 Conservation Commission minutes without amendment.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Kolb

Motion Carried

6-0-0

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Duane

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Perry

Motion Carried

6-0-0

The August 14, 2023 meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 6:55pm.