



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MONDAY JUNE 20, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, June 20, 2022 at Sklar Waterfront Park at 6:30pm. The purpose of the meeting was to address bridge restoration and positioning of large rocks on the property.

Steve Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Mike Boisvert, Vice-Chair
Gage Perry
Cindy Glenn
Councilor Andy Hunter
Michael Drouin, Alternate Member
Ellen Kolb, Alternate Member
David Trippett, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent:

Gina Rosati, Secretary
Eric Starr

Sklar Subcommittee Members Present:

Tom Martinson
Mark Twardoski

Town Staff Present:

Paul Micali, Town Manager
Kyle Fox, DPW Director

Members of the public present:

Katie Little, 73 Pondview Drive, Merrimack
Karen Maillet, 65 Pondview Drive, Merrimack

Chair Perkins designated Commissioners Drouin and Kolb to sit in as voting members.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Bridge restoration

This was an informational discussion and no vote was taken.

The old bridge just downstream of the culvert near the entrance to the property needs attention in order to prevent further deterioration of the bridge and further erosion of adjoining land. The bridge is part of a path approximately 8 feet wide and is not intended for use by vehicular traffic. It is being affected by water flowing down the path from the parking lot.

DPW Director Fox suggested that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services might need to delineate the area wetland before any work is done. Commissioner Perkins will contact DES.

Town Manager Micali suggested that the Commission contact GZA Contractor to evaluate the bridge and to suggest possible remediation strategies. Commissioner Perry will contact GZA. Questioned by Commissioner Kolb, Town Manager Micali agreed that no material for bridge remediation shall be delivered until a permittable remediation plan is in place.

- Positioning of large rocks in Sklar property

This was an informational discussion and no vote was taken.

Large rocks have been placed around the Sklar property at the direction of the subcommittee, with the goal of keeping motorized traffic off of the property's trails and the bank of the Merrimack River. Signs prohibiting motorized traffic have been torn down repeatedly. Town Manager Micali stated that he, DPW Director Fox, and Town Operations Manager Lori Barrett had looked at the property and determined that operators of motorized vehicles are avoiding the currently-placed rocks by using the riverbank as a shortcut.

Town Manager Micali suggested moving the rocks to the trail next to the brush pile (south of where the picnic table is currently located), leaving a walkway between 4 and 5 feet wide. He acknowledged that any driver with a truck and a winch could move rocks without authorization. Commissioners Trippett and Hunter suggested arranging the rocks in an "L"-shaped arrangement to control traffic flow and to protect the riverbank. Mark Twardoski said he could provide more rocks as needed and authorized.

Town Manager Micali pointed out that consultation with an attorney may be needed in order to determine the best use of the Sklar property that is consistent with the Sklar deed and protection of the river. Does the deed permit any motorized use of the property? Commissioner Perkins will send the town manager an email requesting that the town attorney look at the deed.

A master plan is needed for Sklar; Commissioner Drouin said that the subcommittee is working on that and expects to complete it by the end of July 2022. DPW Director Fox advised that the property is in a shoreline protection area, and therefore NH DES controls legality of any tree-cutting, which must be taken into consideration in any master plan.

Commissioners Glenn and Kolb said they want to wait for completion of a master plan before voting on any further development of the property. “Development” does not include placement of rocks in an effort to control traffic within the property.

Commissioner Boisvert observed that the Sklar property is in much better shape than it was five years ago, and cleanup has been dramatic.

Commissioner Drouin said that the Flying Eagles club (radio-controlled airplanes) will replace the property’s information kiosk that was knocked down during club activity. He said a second kiosk could be placed near the waterfront. Town Manager Micali suggested that this could make an excellent project for an Eagle Scout candidate.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY

MOTION PASSED

7-0-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:49PM

Submitted by Ellen Kolb