



# 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

MARCH 20, 2017

### MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Gage Perry presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman  
Michael Boisvert  
Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member  
Gina Rosati, Alternate Member  
Councilor Thomas Mahon

Members of the Commission Absent: Cynthia Glenn

Also in Attendance: Earl Blatchford, Senior Project Manager, Hayner/Swanson, Inc.

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PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

### STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS

#### **1. NIP Owner IV LLC(applicant/owner) –**

Review for recommendation to the Planning Board of loading area improvements.

The parcel is located at 59 Daniel Webster Highway in the I-1 (Industrial) and Aquifer Conservation District. Tax Map 2E, Lot 006.

Earl Blatchford, Senior Project Manager, Hayner/Swanson, Inc. remarked the project location encompasses the larger of the two buildings that were previously part of Nashua Corp. The site is approximately 41 acres in size. There is no longer a manufacturing component with the building. It is an approx. 450,000 sq. ft. building of which approx. 26,000 sq. ft. is office and the remainder is either vacant or warehouse.

In order to attract potential tenant(s), the project proposed the addition of nine (9) loading docks on the westerly face of the existing warehouse/office facility. Both concrete and bituminous pavement resulting in approx. 16,500 sq. ft. of impervious surface and approx. 19,000 sq. ft. of total disturbance. Although recessed docks, they are basically holding the existing edge of pavement and going down to low areas so that the entire new area is internally drained. There are a few catch basins, which collect the water, which is then piped into an underground infiltration system; basically perforated ADS N-12 pipe, which is equipped with an isolator row, which has baffles and will knock out the sediment prior to going into the leaching portion of the system. All storms from 2 to 50-year storms have been analyzed. The system will infiltrate everything. Additional pre-treatment; both catch basins are deep sum catch basins fitted with the snorkel type gas traps over the outlet pipes.

Mr. Blatchford stated the plans include some of the notes the Commission typically looks for such as judicial use of deicer and fertilizers onsite. He noted there to be a few small landscaped areas on either side.

Mr. Blatchford stated the proposed project consists of fairly modest improvements to a large existing facility in an effort to attract potential tenants. The aim is to get the project permitted and not to construct until a tenant is under agreement that is wanting of these improvements and space.

When asked, Mr. Blatchford stated there to be an erosion control plan, which includes a recommended maintenance schedule. It is also equipped with an emergency overflow that connects to the existing drainage system. It does not activate until something greater than a 50-year storm. It has manholes as well as some observation and maintenance ports on top of the pipe. When asked if this would disturb any of the roof's water structures, etc. Mr. Blatchford responded it would not, and noted the overflow they are tying into is a 15" roof drain, which runs through but surprisingly has enough cover that they are just putting a drop over drain manhole in place. He remarked the existing drainage system is pretty deep. The little bit they are cutting down doesn't overcut the cover on the pipe.

Some modifications are planned; eliminating some parking spaces and replicating a few handicapped parking spaces that are being removed from in front of the loading area. The site has approx. 400 parking spaces, and is completely underutilized.

Chairman Perry remarked, if plantings are considered, the Commission recommends staying with native plants. Mr. Blatchford noted the request to the Planning Board for a Waiver of Landscape Plan given the project is a loading area.

#### OLD BUSINESS - None

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### **1. Merrimack Wildlife Sighting Map:**

Commission to discuss if something similar to a wildlife sighting map developed in Amherst, NH would be appropriate for the Merrimackoutdoors.org website.

Commissioner Rosati spoke of Facebook pages she follows. The Amherst page has a wildlife map, which includes bear, coyote, and bobcat sightings. She commented a few years back bear sightings were included in the Patch. Commissioner Rosati stated she has posted Amherst's wildlife map on the Merrimack Outdoors Facebook page, which is not related to the MerrimackOutdoors.Org website. The map was well received, and people have questioned if Merrimack produces a similar wildlife map.

Commissioner Rosati noted she had sent an email to all members of the Commission, which resulted in a short conversation. That ended when it was determined the discussion should be saved for the public meeting. A copy of the email discussion is attached.

Commissioner Rosati questioned the will of the Commission with regard to producing a wildlife map for Merrimack. She described the look and information that could be used for such a map, and stated a willingness to be responsible for upkeep.

Commissioner Tenhave stated concern with posting sightings on private property as there would be the need for confirmed information. Councilor Mahon suggested that could be handled by making individuals aware if providing a photo, etc., it implies authority to use/post. Commissioner Tenhave suggested the need to receive an acknowledgement of that implied authority.

When asked what types of animal sightings would be posted, Commissioner Rosati stated her opinion it would be specific to anything that is not being hunted as she would not want to be responsible for making hunters aware of locations of deer, etc. Commissioner Tenhave noted coyote season is year-round, black bear has a season, etc. However, if within 300' of a home hunting is not permitted.

Commissioner Rosati remarked, in an attempt to avoid unintended consequences, perhaps she should simply place a post on the Merrimack Outdoors Facebook page stating if you see animals on our properties and get a photo post it on this page.

Commissioner Tenhave noted public information available through New Hampshire Fish & Game relative to locations where licensed hunters have successfully hunted particular animals, etc.

Chairman Perry commented it might be interesting to include photos of animals seen in Merrimack without including information relative to location. Commissioner Rosati reiterated her opinion to leave it to users of the Merrimack Outdoors Facebook page for posting of photos, and suggest they not post location.

***The general consensus of the Commission was that photos of animal sightings on Commission properties would be a welcome addition to the Commission's website.***

**2. Funding a Vernal Pool Party in Merrimack**

Commission to discuss the proposed Vernal Pool Party in Spring 2017 with Jeff Littleton. Discussion to include use of MCC funds so Merrimack residents can attend this educational event free of charge.

Chairman Perry informed the Commission Jeff Littleton, Moosewood Ecological Services, has provided the date of Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> as an option for this year's Vernal Pool Party. The desire would be to conduct the event on the Gateway Trail in Grater woods. The cost has not been provided as of yet. Two years ago the cost was \$250.

Commissioner Tenhave questioned if the date coincides with spring vacation week, and was informed it does. He suggested the school district be provided advance notice of the event. The Parks and Recreation Department will be made aware of the event as well.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO GO FORWARD WITH THE VERNAL POOL PARTY AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400.00) WITHOUT ADDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS FUND 53  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON  
MOTION CARRIED  
6-0-0**

**3. Informational Kiosk for Wasserman Park Parking Lot:**

Commission to discuss the design, cost, and possible location for an informational kiosk in the resident's parking lot at Wasserman Park. If approved the Commission would present the plan to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Vice Chairman Caron commented the Winter Carnival was well attended. There were many residents in attendance who were unaware of the trails at Wasserman Park. He spoke with Matt Casparius, Director, Parks & Recreation, who suggested placement of a kiosk in that area where a map could be posted delineating the trails. It was determined the resident lot would be a good location. There is already a sign located there delineating the end of the Quarry Trail that touches the Parks and Recreation property. The other end of Quarry Trail crosses Naticook Road and goes into the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP) through an easement.

Director Casparius suggested the matter go before the Commission for approval, and then be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Vice Chairman Caron questioned the will of the Commission relative to placement of and absorbing the cost for a kiosk at Wasserman Park.

Councilor Mahon suggested it could be a good Eagle Scout project. Commissioner Tenhave commented on having done a presentation for scouts leading into Troop 401 regarding the activities of the Commission. During that, he discussed the number of Eagle Scout projects that have been done on Commission property, and that the Commission is always looking for more. A scout has reached out to the Commission, via email, and expressed an interest in bridge work. It is possible the scout may have an interest in a kiosk.

When asked, Vice Chairman Caron stated the desire to be for a small conservation kiosk; single panel, two legs, small roof. Vice Chairman Caron stated he was unable to locate a plan that included pricing. He submitted the request with a not-to-exceed amount of \$500.

Commissioner Tenhave commented the kiosk will end up on Park and Recreation property. He suggested a joint venture with the Town where the Commission provides the materials and the build and the Town provides installation. He noted installation in the parking lot will require use of a power auger or something similar.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE INSTALLATION OF A KIOSK IN THE WASSERMAN PARK PARKING LOT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) WITHOUT ADDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS FUND 53  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI**

**MOTION CARRIED  
6-0-0**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- **NRPC: Maps**

Vice Chairman Caron stated it appears the NRPC has made all of the corrections provided for the HHNP map. An additional review noted an amendment needed on the trail description for the Quarry Trail; reads "Connects the Horse Hill Nature Preserve parking lot to Wasserman Park". He suggested "parking lot" be removed and "by crossing Naticook Road" be added to the end.

***The Commission stated agreement.***

Vice Chairman Caron noted an email he sent that provided the descriptions he and the Grater Woods Sub-Committee identified for trail descriptions for the Wasserman Park property and the Grater Woods property. The next step is to identify permitted and prohibited uses, hours, and notices. He commented there will be a bit of a challenge with the other properties for some of the information given the individual nature of the properties, e.g., school parking lot as one of the parking lots, hours where Wasserman Park is concerned, e.g., the Parks and Recreation parking lot closes at dusk, etc.

Commissioner Tenhave suggested the Commission review the descriptions at its next meeting. It was noted the Grater Woods Sub-Committee would meet the following evening. Commissioner Boisvert commented some of the trails descriptions provided included usage descriptions where others did not.

***A more formal submission of trail description, permitted uses, hours, and notices will be discussed at the Commission's April meeting.***

Commissioner Tenhave stated the Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee does not meet until the end of April, and intends to work on trail descriptions at that time. Their input will likely not be ready for submission to the NRPC until early May.

Commissioner Tenhave stated the Wasserman Conservation Area has deeded permitted uses and non-permitted uses that are reflected on the Commission's website, but the Commission has never actually voted on permitted/non-permitted uses on the additional 20 acres the Commission owns (by deed/in entirety) and is now considered as part of the Wasserman Conservation Area. He suggested the two permitted uses align completely. He requested a discussion be included on the Commission's next agenda to allow the public an opportunity to provide input, noting aligning the uses would eliminate motorized use on that additional 20 acres, which is likely the most predominant use members of the public may be concerned about. There may be hunting concerns as well.

***Discussion of the uses will be included on the agenda for the Commission's next meeting.***

Vice Chairman Caron spoke of a meeting conducted by the Grater Woods Sub-Committee, HHNP Sub-Committee, and Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee during which members set up a schedule of events in response to the Commission's request. The schedule includes an event on the first Saturday of each month beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> with a dog walk at Wildcat Falls.

The schedule will be posted to the Commission's website, on the Merrimack Outdoors Facebook page, printed in the Merrimack Patch and the Journal, and will be provided to the Town Manager so that announcements can be made at Town Council meetings.

- **Duck Boxes**

Chairman Perry noted there has been no activity given current weather conditions.

- **Update on Grater Road bypass road design & construction**

None available at this time.

- Website Upgrade

Commissioner Tenhave stated the first quarter is outlined, and he is seeking ideas for the second quarter.

- Sub-Committee updates

Commissioner Tenhave stated there to be no updates for the Wildcat Falls Sub-Committee.

Vice Chairman Caron reiterated the Grater Woods Sub-Committee would meet the following evening at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. . . . . February 16, 2017

*The following amendments were offered:*

Page 1, Line 11; "Matt Caron, Vice Chairman" should be listed as in attendance  
Page 3, Line 14; replace "devises" with "devices"  
Page 3, Line 17; correct the spelling of "maintenance"  
Page 3, Line 37; insert a "," after the word "statement" and place quotation marks around "private property maintained by others"  
Page 3, Line 38; replace "Commission" with "Commissioner"  
Page 3, Line 49; the word "The" should not be capitalized  
Page 3, Line 50; insert "to" before "access"  
Page 3, Line 60; replace "Mitchell Wood" with "Mitchell Woods"  
Page 4, Line 7; the word "road" should be capitalized  
Page 4, Line 12; replace "Wetherby" with "Wetherbee"  
Page 4, Lines 28 and 29; replace "devise" with "device"  
Page 4, Line 43; insert a "." after "retired", delete "this year", and capitalize "the"  
Page 5, Line 2; replace "4-0-1" with "5-0-1"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**6-0-0**

Merrimack Conservation Commission. . . . . March 6, 2017

*The following amendments were offered:*

Page 5, Line 56; "Dawn" should not be capitalized

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Councilor Mahon spoke of having received an email from AARP, which included information on Spring in Merrimack. He reviewed it, and noted it included hiking trails, etc. He followed those links, and noticed none of the conservation areas or parks were mentioned. At the bottom of each page was the opportunity to add to the information. He added Wasserman Park, Watson Park, the HHNP, Grater Woods, and Wildcat Falls.

Commissioner Rosati commented it was brought up on the Merrimack Outdoors Facebook page that there were some very rambunctious snowmobilers. Photos were taken and posted. The question raised was whether snowmobiling is allowed at Wildcat Falls.

Commissioner Tenhave responded there are no rules on the State property, and on the Town property it is allowed because Chapter 111 stipulates an RSA, which was changed a few years ago, and snowmobiles were moved into a new RSA. Snowmobiles are no longer in that RSA, and; therefore, by definition, allowed until Chapter 111 is updated. Commissioner Tenhave noted snowmobilers are highly encouraged to stay on existing trails and not create new trails. Commissioner Rosati stated new trails were created by snowmobilers. She remarked the comment was made that the website is not as clear for Wildcat Falls as it is for other properties. Commissioner Tenhave responded the Wildcat Falls website does not indicate snowmobiles as being not permitted because of the RSA. The website provides a link to Chapter 111.

Chairman Perry spoke of the failing bee population. General Mills is now including wild seed mix in boxes of Cheerios. Unfortunately, they took a regional approach and said here are a bunch of wildflowers that bees like, and put one package in each box of cheerios. The mix includes plants such as forget-me-nots, which are not allowed in Massachusetts, and other invasives that are not ideal for every area. He cautioned residents to be mindful of what are and are not local plants.

Commissioner Rosati questioned if the Commission has a listing of wildflower seeds that should not be planted in New Hampshire. Chairman Perry responded the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension maintains a list of [invasives](#).

### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO ADJOURN**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MAHON**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**6-0-0**

*The March 20, 2017 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.*

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan