



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

MEETING MINUTES

ONSITE AT SKLAR WATERFRONT PARK

A meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at Sklar Waterfront Park.

Steven Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Michael Boisvert, Vice Chair
Gina Rosati, Secretary
Michael Drouin, Alternate Member
Ellen Kolb, Alternate Member
David Trippett, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent:

Cynthia Glenn
Gage Perry
Eric Starr
Councilor Andy Hunter

In attendance:

Garret Graaskamp, NH Fish & Game Public Boat
Access Coordinator
Paul Micali, Merrimack Town Manager
Kyle Fox, Director, Merrimack Public Works
Tom Martinson, Sklar Sub-committee
David Webb, Sklar Sub-committee
Lenny Worster, Representative of Abutter

Chair Perkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Perkins designated Ellen Kolb to sit in for Eric Starr and Mike Drouin to sit in for Gage Perry.

OLD BUSINESS -

- **Review the status of the existing public boat ramp and discuss options**

Discussion with Garret Graaskamp regarding whether NH Fish & Game (NH F&G) would consider providing financial assistance towards a boat ramp at the location adjacent to the Sklar Waterfront Park.

Town Manager Paul Micali clarified that the boat ramp is on Town property. Garret Graaskamp stated he does not see this site as a priority as there are too many issues, mainly limited access due to turn limits and the low, narrow bridge which is the only way onto the property. It was estimated that it's unlikely that anything bigger than a 16' boat would be able to get under the bridge.

NH F&G uses money funded by motor boat licenses to build boat ramps, so if they were to fund a boat ramp, they want to make sure that ramp is used by those with motor boats.

If the Town of Merrimack would fix access, NH F&G may be interested in contributing some funding.

NH F&G has about \$1M a year to contribute to boat ramps - \$450k from federal monies, and the balance is from motor boat license fees (\$5/boat). Once Conservation Commission takes money from Fish & Game for a boating ramp, we incur legal obligations that limit our control of that ramp and access to it.

If the rail project goes through, the new owner of the railroad may make the bridge taller and wider. The project is not guaranteed to go through Merrimack, in which case, the bridge will remain as is.

Question to Garret Graaskamp on whether he is aware of the Mobi Boat Ramps. He is aware of something similar that is used for kayaks and canoes, but does not believe it would be a viable ramp for this location.

10:47 a.m. – Garret Graaskamp, Paul Micali, Kyle Fox and Lenny Worster left the meeting

• Review site plans and proposal for future projects at Sklar Park

Discussion and tour led by Sklar Sub-committee members Drouin, Boisvert and Trippett to discuss placement of roads, picnic tables, benches, boulders, and removal of trees and invasive plants.

David Webb left meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Further discussion of proposed handicapped access to riverfront at Sklar Waterfront Park.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY CHAIR PERKINS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The March 29, 2022 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Submitted by Stefanie Brinn