



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

603 424-3531

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Fax 603 424-1408

Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

www.merrimacknh.gov

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

OCTOBER 15, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:32 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chair Gage Perry presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chair
 Michael Boisvert
 Cynthia Glenn
 Steven Perkins
 Gina Rosati
 Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member
 Councilor Peter Albert

Members of the Commission Absent:

Also in Attendance: Nathan Chamberlin, Fieldstone Land Consultants

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS

1. Mark Rivet (applicant/owner) - Review for recommendation to the Planning Board for a lot line adjustment. The parcels are located at 425 Daniel Webster Highway, 2 & 4 Railroad Avenue and an unnumbered parcel off Railroad Avenue in the C-2 (General Commercial) and Aquifer Conservation, Flood Hazard Conservation, Elderly and Town Center Overlay Districts. Tax Map 5D-4, Lots 077, 078, 079 & 080.

Nathan Chamberlin, Fieldstone Land Consultants, stated Mr. Rivet purchased the parcel located behind his business. The desire is for lot line adjustments between the identified parcels to ensure existing improvements are captured on each lot, thereby eliminating encroachments.

The plan was displayed highlighting the areas in question. Chair Perry noted the topography of the largest lot; steep hill (wet at bottom).

2. Mark Rivet (applicant/owner) - Review for recommendation to the Planning Board for the construction of 1,890 sq. ft. garage and function room addition and associated site improvements. The parcels are located at 425 Daniel Webster Highway in the C-2 (General Commercial) and Aquifer Conservation, Flood Hazard Conservation, Elderly and Town Center Overlay Districts. Tax Map 5D-4, Lots 077 & 078.

Mr. Chamberlin stated the project to be that of an addition to the existing structure; garage and function hall. Functions may or may not be related to the existing business. Also proposed are additional parking areas (to support the function hall). Cross-easements would allow for access to the lots. The proposal provides connectivity and increases onsite parking.

Mr. Chamberlin spoke of grading and noted the area of an existing catch basin. The new area will be graded to a low point with a series of infiltration leaching catch basins connected with leaching pipe to create a single large subsurface infiltration basin (under parking lot). He pointed out the area of overflow. Any runoff will be put back into the ground and treatment provided from depth of sand layer below.

When asked about winter maintenance and restrictions on how the pavement could be treated, Mr. Chamberlin commented the parcel is within the aquifer protection zone, and he would believe those restrictions would be noted on the plan.

Commissioner Tenhave stated the aquifer protection zone does not have built in regulation(s). That has to be stipulated during the planning process.

Note F on page 3 of the Site Plan states "Snow storage shall be adjacent to the paved parking areas." Chair Perry remarked the adjacent areas are downhill. Mr. Chamberlin noted landing areas that could be designated. Commissioner Tenhave stated snow storage should be a concern raised.

Vice Chair Caron questioned if there would be a guardrail in the northeast corner. Mr. Chamberlin stated they could look at the warrants to determine whether it is warranted.

Commissioner Tenhave questioned treatment between the four catch basins and the outflow and was told treatment would occur as it would infiltrate into the ground. With larger storms typically everything is already flushed out, and it will overflow into the river where it is currently going. Commissioner Tenhave questioned if it is not piped out; comes off top of asphalt. Mr. Chamberlin stated that to be correct. It comes into the surface/rim of the catch basin and then goes in and 99% of storms will be infiltrated back into the ground; in a larger storm it will surcharge into the pipe and go out the pipe. It will not pond on the surface.

When asked if an oil/water separator is planned for parking lot runoff, Mr. Chamberlin stated there would not be as they are all interconnected. There is sufficient treatment media in existing soil to capture that. He stated a T could be placed on the outflow pipe. When asked about maintenance, he indicated there would have to be a stormwater maintenance plan put in place. When asked if that would be part of the proposal to the Planning Board, he stated it is typically in the stormwater management report. If not already included, it could be added.

Asked if the new roofline would have a gutter system, he remarked it appears it currently sheds onto the pavement and travels down toward the street system on one side and to the existing leaching basin on the other. That will continue to occur.

Commissioner Tenhave stated the Commission's preference for no phosphate fertilizer should fertilizer be deemed necessary. Chair Perry questioned, and was informed the notes could reflect a requirement for the soil to be tested to determine whether fertilizer is needed.

Commissioner Tenhave commented the note in the Plan (erosion control Note #6) relative to applying cover to disturbed areas may be more lenient than the permit. The response was that the permit requirements would be included in the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2019 Membership Dues - NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC)

The Commission discussed the dues believing them to be in line with previous years, and noted they are for calendar year 2019.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO APPROVE THE INVOICE FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS FOR 2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$1,075) AND ALLOW THE TOWN FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO PAY THE BILL WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME AND WHEN MEETING CASHFLOW ABILITIES. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS THE TOWN BUDGET

MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CARON

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

2. 2018 Annual LCIP Survey of Wasserman Conservation Area

For a number of years the walk was conducted in May. Last year it was done in the fall, and the conditions were such that it proved to be a good time to conduct the walk.

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of the property that had debris/trees that fell into the conservation area noting the property recently sold. The new owners reached out to the Commission being aware of the history and wanting to be good neighbors. Commissioner Tenhave met with them. Since the clean-up was done, a few additional trees have fallen over towards Commission property. It appears the previous activity on the property disturbed the soil to the point that the trees had nothing to hold them in. The new owners questioned if it is something that has to be addressed right away. They have been advised by some companies that more trees are in danger and should be taken down. Commissioner Tenhave stated the desire for it to be addressed to avoid the trees sliding down the hill and ending up on Commission property, but that it did not have to occur immediately. Commissioner Tenhave provided them with contact information for the NH Cooperative Extension Forester. The homeowners will contact him for advice on which trees need to be addressed over time. They also want to do stabilization work to keep the bank.

Commissioner Tenhave had mentioned the LCIP walk. He suggested, if the walk is conducted on a Saturday, members of the Commission could visit with them to see what they are planning on doing, provide thoughts and perhaps assistance; also wishing to be good neighbors.

The Commission scheduled the walk for Saturday, November 10, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the resident lot.

The Wasserman property (both park and conservation sides) was purchased with LCIP dollars. There is a requirement for annual monitoring and submission of a report to the State.

3. Sklar Park Kiosk Installation - Eagle Scout Project

Commissioner Rosati spoke of having received an email from Life Scout Sidhanth Dhanaraj looking for information on appearing before the Town Council. She provided him with instructions. When the project appears on the agenda she will attend.

Commissioners Boisvert and Rosati will visit the area with Life Scout Dhanaraj to stake out the exact location. It was suggested coordinating the work with the posting of signage. Commissioner Boisvert voiced concern with the potential for the signs to be vandalized and stated a desire to inform the Police of the installation.

Vice Chair Caron noted Home Depot has a tow-behind post hole digger that could be utilized and would allow for an easier process of getting the holes dug. Vice Chair Caron commented on the possibility of also digging the holes for the kiosk.

If possible, the two projects will be coordinated to occur simultaneously; tentatively November 17th.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Annual NHACC Meeting & Conference

The 48th Annual Meeting Conference for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at Pembroke Academy.

Those who are able to attend will be signed up by Wednesday, October 17th.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Sub-committee Updates

Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP)

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on October 29th in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Wildcat Falls

The next meeting will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. on October 23rd in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Grater Woods

Vice Chair Caron noted there to be two Scout projects currently underway. The Outdoor Classroom is near completion and much more robust than anticipated. Benches are going in around the parcel.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. September 17, 2018

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 1, Line 17; replace “Gaige” with “Gage”
- Page 2, Line 11; replace “infiltration” with “filtration”
- Page 3, Line 17; replace “discussion” with “discussed”
- Page 3, Line 31; insert “Merrimack” before “Village District”
- Page 4, Line 14; capitalize “Aquatic Resource Management”
- Page 4, Lines 28 and 30; capitalize “Life Scout”
- Page 4, Line 36; insert “Caron” after “Vice Chair”
- Page 5, Lines 2 and 5; capitalize “Scout”
- Page 5, Line 23; capitalize “Commission’s”
- Page 5, Line 19; replace “pole” with “post”
- Page 7, Line 24; replace “funs” with funds” and “is” with “if”
- Page 8, Line 18; capitalize “Life Scout”

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED

MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CARON

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-1

Chair Perry Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Councilor Albert noted, at the October 11th meeting, the Town Council engaged in a discussion with Executive Councilor David Wheeler, Senator Gary Daniels, District 11, and Representative Richard Barry, District 21, regarding the F.E. Everett Turnpike widening project. As part of that discussion, the Council authorized the Town Manager to submit a letter stating the continued interest of the Commission with regard to a conservation easement on the State owned parcel and suggesting the request be approved as part of the wetland mitigation for the project.

Commissioner Rosati spoke of working with Commissioner Tenhave on the Chapter 111 update.

Commissioner Boisvert remarked he has heard comments regarding individuals becoming lost in Grater Woods and the HHNP. He questioned if additional signage is needed, particularly in Grater Woods. Commissioner Tenhave suggested the Commission highlight (at the kiosks) the fact that the

trail system is online, and users could utilize GPS. It was suggested directional signs pointing to parking locations could be erected in Grater Woods.

Commissioner Tenhave stated his appreciation for the letter being sent to NHDOT commenting this is the third time we have had an agreement. Turnover happens, and things are forgotten.

Vice Chair Caron commented on the kiosk being erected in the resident lot for Wasserman Park by Life Scout Anthony Milani, Troop 272. Life Scout Milani conducted two very successful fundraising bake sales at the HHNP parking lot. Another is scheduled for October 26th at Wasserman Park during the 26th Annual Halloween Party.

Commissioner Glenn stated the need for additional maps at the HHNP (Amherst Road). Chair Perry commented on the quantity of maps that location has required (\$2,000₊). Commissioner Tenhave spoke of the number of cars he has seen parked in the area from out of State. He went by the parking lot the previous day. It was full and there was no event taking place.

Chair Perry stated he could request additional maps and questioned the Commission relative to whether the desire was to identify a yearly limit for maps. The suggestion was made that the QR codes be more pronounced (larger and placed on the map box) and users of the trails encouraged to “save a tree” (signs posted near exit).

Chair Perry informed the Commission he spoke with both Moosewood Ecological and GZA GeoEnvironmental. They are mobilizing, and projects are in motion. Updates should be provided in the next few months.

Vice Chair Caron commented a photo was posted to social media of the bridge on Junkyard Trail. He cut the new decking. When constructing the bridge, he cut a few maples down on property and utilized them as stringers. He intends to do the same with the rebuild.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI

MOTION CARRIED

7-0-0

The October 15, 2018 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan