



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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## **MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER -**

A Meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order on Monday March 11, 2024 at 6:33 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Steve Perkins, Chair, presided:

Members of the Commission Present:

Ellen Kolb  
Tom Martinson, Alternate Member  
Gage Perry

Members of the Commission Absent

Andrew Duane  
Eric Starr, Vice-Chair  
Karis Welsh  
Andy Hunter, Town Councilor  
Danielle Melanson, Alternate Member  
David Trippett, Alternate Member

Chair Perkins designated Commissioner Martinson to sit in as a voting member for Vice-Chair Starr.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** –

- **Armada Realty, LLC (applicant/owner)- Review for recommendations to the Planning Board regarding a site plan involving the consolidation of two lots into a single parcel, razing of an existing single family dwelling, and construction of a proposed restaurant building with drive-thru, along with**

**associated site improvements. The parcels are located at 632 & 634 Daniel Webster Highway in the C-1 (Limited Commercial), Aquifer Conservation, & Elderly Housing Overlay Districts and the Wellhead Protection Area. Tax Map 6E-2, Lots 6 & 7.**

Matt Peterson, Keach-Nordstrom Associates, presented the application to the Board. He explained that it's an expansion of Hot Rize, the restaurant. The project went before the Planning Board last week and will be reviewed there again in mid-April. Mr. Peterson said that the proposed improvements to drainage and stormwater management on site will have to be revised from what is presented to the Commission tonight, due to the site's being within the area covered by water management policies put in place due to St. Gobain. Unlike nearby properties, this site is already served by a sewer line. Utilities will be underground. An abutter has expressed concerns about the height of a fence and placement of a dumpster proposed on one side of the site, and applicant is working with project designers to address that issue.

Chair Perkins asked about post-snow storm storage. Mr. Peterson acknowledged that the size of the site could make snow storage a challenge. Chair Perkins suggested that trucking snow offsite might be appropriate in some circumstances.

Commissioner Kolb noted with thanks that the site plan has a note that landscaping is not required by local codes for this particular project, but has been included in the plan by the applicant. Commissioner Perry checked the site plan's list of vegetation to be used in landscaping and saw no known invasive plants.

Chair Perkins will send Conservation Commission comments to the Planning Board.

- **Souhegan River Watershed Council:**

Commissioner Kolb reported that SRWC is looking for volunteers for this summer's periodic sampling of water at locations along the Souhegan River. This is an annual project. Volunteers take samples and deliver them to the Wastewater Treatment Plant where samples are tested for E. Coli. Anyone interested can email SRWC project chair Eric Doberstein at [souhegan.river.monitoring@gmail.com](mailto:souhegan.river.monitoring@gmail.com).

**Appointments:**

- Appointment of Tony Giancola to the Grater Woods Subcommittee as a full time member with a term to expire 6/30/2024
- Appointment of Mat Behler to the Grater Woods Subcommittee as an alternate member with a term to expire 6/30/2025

Jeffrey Lecours, sitting chair for the Grater Woods Subcommittee, proposed two new members for the subcommittee, one of whom (Mat Behler) is present this

evening. The other nominee is Tony Giancola, who Mr. Lecours described as a neighbor. Mr. Lecours recommended that the Commisison confirm both nominees.

Commissioners referred to a memo from the Community Development department on the appropriate language for a motion to accept the volunteers. Commissioners questioned the number of vacancies on the committee, and Commissioner Kolb referred to a list of subcommittee members provided by Community Development in September 2023. With the departure of former subcommittee member Paul Labrie, there appear to be two subcommittee openings for full members, rather than one full and one alternate as proposed in the Community Development Memo.

**Motion by Commissioner Perry to appoint Tony Giancola to the Grater Woods Subcommittee as a full member with a term to expire 6/30/2024.**

**Seconded by Chair Perkins**

**Motion Carried**

**4-0-0**

**Motion by Commissioner Perry to appoint Mat Behler to the Grater Woods Subcommittee as a full member with a term to expire 6/30/2027.**

**Seconded by Chair Perkins**

**Motion Carried**

**4-0-0**

Commissioner Kolb said that if a review of this vote shows any defect in the length of terms or position (alternate/full), MCC can correct the error at a future meeting. The commissioners thanked Mr. Behler and Mr. Giancola (in absentia) for their willingness to serve.

Scout interested in a project: Chair Perkins said he has received word of a Scout who's interested in learning about possible projects in MCC properties. Commissioner Kolb noted that the HHNP subcommittee at its recent meeting discussed the replacement of a boardwalk. Commissioner Perry said that there are many possible projects within Grater Woods. He added that any projects need to be designed with a maintenance plan in mind. No vote was taken; consensus was for Chair Perkins to get more information about what the Scout is looking for.

## **OTHER BUSINESS –**

**Potential organization interested in assisting with the May 4, 2024 work day at the Sklar property**

Commissioner Kolb stated that she will follow up with Community Development to make sure the organization and the Sklar clean-up team are in touch.

Another topic raised, arising from the previous two items: trail markers throughout Conservation Commission properties need attention. There's a standard style of markers in all properties except Horse Hill, and those markers are cracking and being nibbled on by wildlife. Commissioner Perry suggested that the Commission wait until the new maps of properties are produced by NRPC before there's a major effort on the markers, so that we are sure the trail designations are correct. The Commission can see about having new markers cut from a more durable material than what's currently used on the trails. Commissioner Martinson said he can call other Conservation Commissions to ask what materials they use for markers, and Commissioner Perry said that UNH Extension might have useful information. No motions were made on this topic.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Commissioner Kolb to approve the February 26, 2024  
Conservation Commission minutes with the following amendments**

Page 1, Line 22 replace "Any" with "Andy"

**Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinson  
Motion Carried  
4-0-0**

### **ADJOURNMENT** –

**Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Perry  
Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinson  
Motion Carried  
4-0-0**

The March 11, 2024 meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 7:26pm.