



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

APRIL 16, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:34 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
 Gina Rosati
 Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent: Councilor Jackie Flood

Also in Attendance: Don Laliberte, Member, HHNP Sub-Committee
 Bruce Peterson, 3 Elizabeth Drive

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Laliberte, 5 Danforth Road

Spoke of an email sent to Mr. Flanders and questioned if a response has been received. Chair Perry stated the response was quick, and indicated that they are in receipt of it, circulating it, are formulating a plan, and will get back to the Commission with action items. The email was also sent to Timothy Thompson, Director, Community Development Department and Paul Micali, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, who sent it to the Town Manager. Mr. Laliberte volunteered to serve as a point person.

Mr. Laliberte spoke of a recent hike that found him in the Tower 113 area where he was surprised to find another dozen brass bullet casings. Officer Sullivan has been made aware and has indicated he will be watchful of the area. Mr. Laliberte noted he followed up with a voice message to Officer Sullivan.

Mr. Laliberte suggested the one action that could be taken is installing a game camera, which would be triggered by activity. He suggested the need for postings on the banking overlooking the wetland. There should be some language that notes the restriction on target shooting, high-powered weapons, etc.

Chair Perry stated he would report the activity to the Police Department; keeping a log of details.

A member of the HHNP Sub-committee recently came across a group heading into the property for a bike skill event or similar activity, which was sponsored by a bike shop in Concord and associated with a specific product. Mr. Laliberte questioned what the policy is regarding outside commercial groups sponsoring an event on Commission property.

Vice Chair Caron noted it is public property. The Commission cannot prohibit use unless they are charging a fee, posting advertisements at the kiosks, etc.

Commissioner Tenhave stated commercial activities, where a profit is being made or a fee is being charged, cannot be done without permission of the landowner. A vendor permit is required.

Mr. Laliberte questioned specifically the use of Town land by a group or entity. Commissioner Tenhave stated there are park rules and an application for use of the park for a dedicated purpose. Chapter 142 lists all the parks in Town. There is nothing like that currently in place for Commission properties. That is part of Chapter 111, an update to which the Commission is currently working on. This will be one of the things reviewed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

APPOINTMENTS

- Bruce Peterson

Chair Perry stated the appointment to be for Bruce Peterson as an Alternate Member of the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-committee.

Bruce Peterson, 3 Elizabeth Drive

Remarked he has resided in Town for 30⁺ years and has been utilizing the HHNP for most of that time. The HHNP is one of the reasons he and his wife have remained in Merrimack. He is retired now and would like to volunteer in this capacity.

The Commission thanked him for his willingness to serve.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE PETERSON AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HORSE HILL NATURE PRESERVE SUB-COMMITTEE WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 31, 2021

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-0

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 18th Annual Seedling Giveaway - May 12, 2018 at Currier Orchards. Hours to be decided.

The 18th Annual Seedling Giveaway will be conducted on May 12th at the Currier Orchards during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The seedlings can be picked up after April 25th. Vice Chair Caron commented, historically, at the end of the event, any remaining seedlings are planted on the Commission properties.

Commissioner Rosati questioned if there is a limit to the number of seedlings a resident could take. Chair Perry responded the Commission has always reserved the right to limit, e.g., would not want commercial entities taking advantage of the giveaway.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Follow up discussion regarding ARM funding for the Grater Road bypass

Commissioner Rosati noted she and Commissioners Boisvert and Tenhave met a week prior and drafted the Grant Application. They await budgetary information from Dawn Tuomala, Deputy Director/Town Engineer. The application is due April 30th. The desire is to complete the process within a weeks' time. The group agreed to meet on Friday, April 20th at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Tenhave questioned the will of the Commission regarding authorizing the group to submit the application, once complete.

The consensus of the Commission was that the Grant Application, once completed, be submitted without delay.

It was noted funding approval would not come until fall. If approved, the project would likely not begin until 2019.

Commissioner Boisvert commented this first step of the Grant Application involves a summary of the project. If moving further into the process, a detailed proposal would have to be provided (due end of August).

2. Website Maintenance Contract

A copy of the "Retainer for Ongoing Support" detailing the services that would be provided was provided the Commission (copy attached).

Commissioner Tenhave noted, as discussed at the last meeting, there is the need to renew the website maintenance contract. Terms proposed mirror those of the previous contract.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO APPROVE THE ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH WETHERBEE CREATIVE (EFFECTIVE APRIL 2, 2018) FOR QUARTERLY SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT A TOTAL COST OF ONE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$1,040.00) AND TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR PERRY TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND 53
MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CARON
MOTION CARRIED
6-0-0

Vice Chair Caron commented on how pleased the Commission is with the product it has been provided.

Commissioner Boisvert spoke of the scheduled clean-up of the Skylar property (tentative June 2nd). He has been communicating with Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department (PWD) who has expressed concern over who would cover the associated costs. Commissioner Boisvert had indicated his hope the Town would cover the cost. Commissioner Boisvert has since suggested a meeting with the Town Manager to allow that discussion to occur. He has not yet heard back. Chair Perry spoke of the workload currently placed on the PWD as the likely reason he has not heard back yet.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Sub-committee Updates

Horse Hill Nature Preserve

Commissioner Glenn stated the Sub-committee met the prior week during which she distributed the maps provided for review/amendments. It was noted there will be the need to add the new trail and take off the one that will be closed.

The individual organizing the bike ride was contacted and informed the trails are not in the best condition at this time because of mud. The group will go to another property and visit the HHNP at a more suitable time.

Commissioner Tenhave questioned how the access is around the Bradish Bridge. Vice Chair Caron commented the flow is good, but it has not flooded the trail.

Wildcat Falls

Commissioner Rosati stated the Sub-committee has rescheduled its meeting date to April 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

The gravel was delivered and has been raked. The amount of gravel provided was the exact amount needed. Those who did the raking were unable to move the picnic table. That will occur later. When asked about the condition of the parking lot, she stated the entrance is really rutted.

Grater Woods

Vice Chair Caron stated the Sub-committee has not met since last reported. Members installed five single-track bridges in areas that had been wet in prior years. The next meeting is scheduled for June.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. April 2, 2018

The following amendments were offered:

Page 1, Line 29; the quotation mark should appear after the word “enter”.

Page 4, Lines 28 and 29; replace “Counsel” with “Council”

Page 4, Line 36; replace “an” with “in”

Page 4, Line 37; capitalize “Fitness Trail”

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN
MOTION CARRIED**

5-0-1

Commissioner Boisvert Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Peterson, HHNP Sub-Committee

Commented in the Charge of the HHNP Sub-Committee there is mention of coordination with numerous entities including the Merrimack Village District and questioned if they have wells on or work on that property. Chair Perry suggested it likely to be generic language intended to include all.

They do not currently have any activities on the HHNP.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Tenhave spoke of having attended a staff meeting with the Town Manager and her staff during which they discussed the Chapter 111 process update. The Town Manager asked all department heads to provide written comments/concerns as well as what each one thought they could contribute to the project. She will assemble that data so that it can be brought back to the Town Council. He believes the project will receive a recommendation from the Town Manager to move forward.

The Library Director indicated the Library has a Research Librarian, and they may be able to provide research assistance. There was good discussion of how to manage/utilize the data collected.

Chair Perry stated the need to address the numerous beavers at Watkins Forest. Anyone having an alternative to trapping is asked to bring information forward. The terrain is too broad to lend itself to beaver deceivers. The situation is such that it will impact infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY VICE CHAIR CARON TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT
MOTION CARRIED**

6-0-0

The April 16, 2018 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.