



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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## MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 2, 2018

### MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 6:35 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chair Gage Perry presided:

Members of the Commission Present:    Matt Caron, Vice Chair  
   Cynthia Glenn  
   Gina Rosati  
   Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member

Members of the Commission Absent:    Michael Boisvert  
   Councilor Jackie Flood

Also in Attendance:                        Don Laliberte, HHNP Subcommittee - Merrimack NH  
   Lynne Wenz, HHNP Subcommittee - Merrimack NH

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Don Laliberte, member of the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee (HHNP) raised concerns regarding the work being performed by Eversource and their contractors in HHNP. Don commented that he is concerned with the lack of communication between Eversource and the Conservation Commission. There is an unpaved road off of Naticook Road that is being used by Eversource to move vehicles and large equipment. It was noted that there was a small "Do not enter" sign however there is no additional signage or other measures being used to deter public use of the construction road or entrance into HHNP. Don did find a number of empty .223 casings on the Loop Trail in HHNP; this area is also in the vicinity of where the construction equipment is being parked. Although there is no evidence of who was discharging the firearm, it is a safety concern for both the public as well as the wildlife. Lastly what plan does Eversource have for the site once the project is completed? What restrictions will be in place for the unpaved road so the public will not use it to access HHNP? Don would like to begin this discussion with Eversource now so that whatever is decided will take effect immediately after project completion.
2. Lynne Wenz, member of the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee (HHNP) commented that she has worked extensively with NH Fish & Game and NH Audubon to document wildlife. There are 3 endangered species at the southern tip of Lastowka Pond. Lynne stated that NH Fish & Game had assured her that if the gas line was to go through, they would insist that the

construction would wait until winter so the turtles would be under the mud. Lynne's concerned with the warm weather coming that the turtles will be sunning themselves as well as nesting. There is also a rare plant known as a sundial, located behind the powerline near an abandoned trail. Lynne suggested that if blasting where to take place near this location that the sundials would be transplanted to an area with similar growing conditions.

Chair Perry commented that he will reach out to his point of contact at Eversource to see if he can provided some type of schedule and list of activities that will be taking place. This is the first he was aware of the empty casings but HHNP is a no target shooting area, and the casings will be a police enforcement issue.

Don does have some photos of the area where the casings were found and will forward them to the Commission.

Lynne inquired what the likelihood would be that Eversource will delay work until the winter months.

Chair Perry commented that he is unable to speculate as to what Eversource is willing to do.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

**1. Discussion regarding NHDOT proposed widening of the F.E. Everett Turnpike.**

The public information meeting held by NHDOT was rescheduled until May; the Commission will continue their discussion after the public meeting is held.

**2. Discussion regarding use of metal detectors on Conservation property.**

The Conservation Commission was in agreement that the use of metal detectors on any of the Conservation properties will not be a permitted activity. Concerns were discussed regarding the many holes that will be dug and the possible tripping hazard this will create. Also discussed was the potential damage this might cause to the trails and the ability for the user to make profits off of the property. It was noted that there may also be some unknown historic areas as well as possible property deed restrictions.

Without an approved plan for digging and then returning the land to its original condition, the Conservation Commission cannot support this activity.

**3. Website maintenance contract**

Commissioner Tenhave stated that the contract with Wetherbee for upgrades and maintenance on the Conservation Commission website is due to expire. The contract was for 3½ hours of work a

quarter. Wetherbee was able to work on the photo gallery, subcommittee webpages, project pages, etc. in this time. Commissioner Tenhave has not yet received a draft of the follow up contract but will pass along once received so the Commission may review and discuss. The Commission was in agreement that they would be interested in further discussing a contract for another year with Wetherbee. It was noted that the website calendar did need to be updated; however it is the Commission that maintains the calendar.

**4. Sklar Park clean up**

Chair Perry commented that there is a tentative clean up date of Saturday June 2, 2018. It was noted that Commissioner Boisvert has been in contact with Anheuser-Busch in regards to employee volunteer opportunities. Contact will be made with the Department of Public Works to coordinate assistance efforts.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Home Depot amendment of site plan.**

The Commission reviewed the information that was provided and was in agreement that they will need additional information. The Commission is looking for detailed plans regarding the removal of snow and how the onsite wells will be monitored going forward as there is no current process of this happening. The Commission will work on an outline of items that they are looking for clarification on for follow up.

Commissioner Rosati commented that the current information is not consistent with measurements, stating 10 tons of salt and 40 yards of sand. The Commission agreed that the units of measure should be the same throughout the plan.

Vice Chair Caron commented on the storage of the deicing materials as the current information states that the 10 tons of salt will be stored in a bin. Where will this bin drain and will it be covered?

Chair Perry noted that if the bin is stored over concrete that it will not last as all of the salt will eat away at the concrete.

Commissioner Tenhave stated that the plans should include information regarding the grade of the area where the deicing agents will be stored and where the excess salt and runoff flow.

The Commission will look into gathering additional information and possible examples to provide an outline of what they are looking to see.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

● **Sub-committee Updates**

Commissioner Rosati commented that the one cubic yard of gravel is still needed by the picnic bench.

Chair Perry noted that the delivery was delayed due to snow, now that warmer weather is on the way a reminder can be sent to the Department of Public Works to schedule a delivery.

Commissioner Glenn noted that the next Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee meeting will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p. m.

Commissioner Glenn also inquired about purchasing additional maps for HHNP. The Commission had a discussion regarding how fast they are being used versus the cost to keep the kiosks stocked. Also ordering smaller quantities for just individual parks will be more costly than the first large bulk order for all properties.

Commissioner Rosati noted that she and Commissioner Boisvert have been working together on the ARM funding proposal for the Grater Road bypass. They were able to work on a draft of the grant application and will provide additional budget information. The Commission will review the draft and provide any updates by Thursday. The proposal deadline for the application is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. . . . . March 19, 2018

*The following amendments were offered:*

Page 1, Line 51; replace “Crispy Creme” with “Krispy Kreme”

Page 2, Line 38; replace “snow shoe” with “snowshoe”

Page 3, Line 32; include “that” after the word “added”

Page 4, Line 40; replace “Stated” with “State”

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN TO ACCEPT, AS AMENDED**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Caron commented that it is currently mud season and to use caution on the trails. Also walking around mud puddles increases the area of impact. It is preferred that visitor’s turn around and use an alternate route.

Commissioner Tenhave commented that he met with the Town Council in regards to the proposed changes to Chapter 111. There was a general consensus from the Council that the Commission was headed in the correct direction. The Town Manager requested a meeting with Commissioner Tenhave and department heads to review the process and confirm that all timelines can be met along with a general discussion of the properties that will be involved. At this time a meeting has not been scheduled.

Chair Perry noted that he had received an email regarding an Eagle Scout project and what ideas do the Commission have for future projects. The Commission was in agreement that a focus should be made to update the Fitness Trail.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSSIONER GLENN TO ADJOURN**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CARON**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

*The March 19, 2018 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.*

Submitted by Sharon Haynes