



# Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

6 Baboosic Lake Road

Town Hall - Lower level - East Wing

Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

603 424-3531

Fax 603 424-1408

[www.merrimacknh.gov](http://www.merrimacknh.gov)

## MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

### MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:30 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 (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)  
Steven Perkins  
Gina Rosati  
Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member  
Councilor Peter Albert

Members of the Commission Absent: Michael Swisher, Alternate member

Also in Attendance: Eric Brand, Owner, P&L Landscaping

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**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**APPOINTMENTS** - None

### **STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS**

- 1. P&L Landscaping (applicant) & Siam 04 Realty, LLC. (owner)** – Review for recommendation to the Planning Board for a waiver of full site plan review to permit employee parking for an off-site landscaping business in addition to the existing on-site restaurant use. The parcel is located at 75 Daniel Webster Highway in the I-1 (Industrial) and Aquifer Conservation Districts. Tax Map 2D, Lot 028.

Eric Brand, Owner, P&L Landscaping, noted the application is new. The previous applicant sought approval for tractor trailer storage and parking in the rear of the property. The previous applicant has since vacated the premises. The desire, at this time, is for a secondary use of the existing parking area (back row); employee parking for business located next door. The area has been used for parking per an agreement with the prior two owners. It would not be used for business parking, and would be off-hours from the restaurant's peak business time. Available parking is in excess of the # of parking spaces required based on the # of seats in the restaurant.

Mr. Brand noted a revised plan has been submitted seeking a waiver of full site plan review; just to identify the spaces that would be utilized.

*There are no recommendations from the Commission.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. 2019 Maintenance Plan - Beaver Solutions, LLC.**

Chair Perry noted the only change from the prior year's contract is an increase (\$10) in the hourly wage. The Commission has four devices in place and the Town has 3. He spoke with Lori Barrett, Operations Manager, Public Works Department, regarding the discounted price when having 7 devices; however, learned the department manages two of their devices. The only one they keep a maintenance contract on is the one located at Merrymeeting Drive.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO APPROVE THE 2019 MAINTENANCE PLAN WITH BEAVER SOLUTIONS, LLC AND AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF NINE HUNDRED NINETY DOLLARS (\$990.00). FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND 53  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN**

## **ON THE QUESTION**

Councilor Albert questioned if Beaver Solutions would address or have strategies to address the beaver issues occurring at the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP). Chair Perry remarked their primary focus is water level management. Commissioner Tenhave commented the devices have been very successful.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7-0-0**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Game cameras on Conservation properties**

Vice Chair Caron spoke of the successful use of the game cameras the Police Department placed on the Sklar property, and the conversations that have come about as a result.

He noted the Commission previously voted to purchase game cameras; however, never acted on it. He suggested the Commission look to identify the type/model of camera used by the Police Department and that the same kind be purchased for the sake of consistency, understanding the ease of use, etc. It is believed the cost (inclusive of mount) is approx. \$150-\$200/each.

The Commission discussed postponing a vote until having information on the model and cost available. The item will be placed on the March 4<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### **2. Beaver activity resulting in temporary trail closure at Horse Hill Nature Preserve**

Commissioner Glenn stated the trail was closed between Posts 3 and 4, as discussed. There is signage in the area that addresses the bridge not being suitable for horses, and indicates a way around. More of the damaged trees have been taken down. She is uncertain the sub-committee would have voted to close the

trail, but understood it was in response to a complaint being received. Noted was an email received from a member of the sub-committee who would like to see the trail re-opened (now that some of the trees have been addressed).

Chair Perry spoke with Timothy Thompson, Director, Community Development Department, regarding what the Commission is required to do, e.g., post the area noting users of the trail do so at their own risk. Director Thompson indicated he would investigate it further, and provide direction.

Vice Chair Caron will order duck boxes (approved at the 1-7-19 meeting).

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Sub-committee Updates

#### **Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-committee**

The sub-committee typically meets four times yearly. This year they have decided to increase the number of meetings to 6. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room, and will be used to set goals for 2019. There is a desire to update the sub-committee page on the website to include identified goals.

Items mentioned include typing up and posting of comments left in the notebook located at the kiosk in Amherst, a trail walk in the spring to identify problem areas and prioritize work that is needed, and setting up a Gmail account. Chair Perry noted Grater Woods got rid of the email account quite some time ago. Commissioner Tenhave noted Wildcat Falls had an email address; however, he is uncertain if it continues to be used. Commissioner Rosati stated she would look into that.

Chair Perry spoke of the former site, Friends of Grater Woods, which had a business I.D. (accepted donations) and an email account. When the Friends of Grater Woods became a sub-committee of the Commission, that was abolished, and the emails were discontinued. That was during the time when there was discussion around the Right-to-Know Law and how email must be handled.

Vice Chair Caron noted each of the maps directs individuals wishing to make contact to the MerrimackOutdoors.org website where the phone number for the Community Development Department is listed as well as an email link that sends an email to all members of the Commission. Chair Perry remarked given each sub-committee has a member of the Commission as an ex-officio member, an email directed to the Commission is the easiest way for information to be shared.

Commissioner Glenn commented an individual who was previously on the sub-committee shared with her contact information for residents wishing to be informed of the sub-committee's activities. The email allowed for dissemination of that information.

Chair Perry noted the "Stay in Touch" [link](#) on the website that allows individuals to sign up to receive emails on properties of interest. He suggested, the contact information could be provided to Wetherbee Creative (consultants) to be added. Commissioner Glenn suggested the individuals could be contacted to determine their continued interest.

Commissioner Boisvert questioned, and was informed the Town Ordinance relative to removal of dog waste is identified at the kiosk.

Chair Perry noted the Parks and Recreation Department utilizes Constant Contact. He will reach out to Matt Casparius, Director, Parks and Recreation, to learn more about how that works. The Commission's website is not set up as an outbound email engine.

#### Wildcat Falls

Commissioner Rosati noted the sub-committee could not obtain a quorum to meet on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was postponed until February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Conference Room.

The Moonlight Snowshoe Walk remains scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>. However, she is uncertain if there will be enough snow for the walk. She commented on the expected temperatures. The sub-committee will discuss whether to cancel the event.

#### Sklar Waterfront Park

Commissioner Boisvert remarked there remains enough debris that a small clean-up would be warranted this spring. He stated a willingness to contact Anheuser Busch. It was suggested April would be a good timeframe. Anheuser Busch expressed an interest in a weekday event. Vice Chair Caron noted Fidelity has also expressed interest in a weekday event.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES**

Merrimack Conservation Commission. . . . . January 28, 2019

*The following amendments were offered:*

Page 2, Line 44; capitalize "Scout"  
Page 3, Line 10; replace "\$100,00±" with "\$100,000±"  
Page 3, Line 29; replace "sure" with "shore"  
Page 4, Line 16; replace "residents" with "residence,"  
Page 5, Line 42; replace "the" with "they"  
Page 9, Line 48; replace "7-0-0" with "6-0-0"

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

**5-0-2**

*Vice Chair Caron and Councilor Albert Abstained*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Glenn questioned the date of the Winter Carnival, and was informed it is set for February 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was noted the Commission's participation is not noted on the Parks and Recreation website. Commissioner Rosati will follow up.

Asked if the large maps would be delivered in time, Chair Perry stated they are ready to be picked up. He will look into whether payment was mailed or if there is a check available to be picked up and delivered. He noted the small tri-folds were, once again, donated. The Commission commented on the continued generosity.

Councilor Albert questioned if the Commission is still looking for additional boulders for the Sklar Waterfront Park, and was told it is. Councilor Albert spoke of a few projects occurring around Town, and his intent to speak with the contractors to determine if there is an interest in donating boulders.

Chair Perry informed the Commission the order for the seedlings has been placed. It is expected they will be ready for pick-up some time late April. He spoke with Jeff Currier who is once again willing to donate the use of the orchard.

GZA GeoEnvironmental has provided information on a local seminar; "Storm Hazard Mitigation Through Designing with Nature". He offered to forward the information to Commissioners who are interested.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GLENN**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7-0-0**

*The February 11, 2019 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.*

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan