



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

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MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DECEMBER 12, 2013

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 6:32 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Chairman Tim Tenhave presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
Ron Davies
Gage Perry

Members of the Commission Absent: Thomas Lehman
Simon Thomson
Councilor Thomas Mahon
Robert Croatti, Alternate
Lauren Kras, Alternate

Also in Attendance:

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bridge Project for bottom of Gateway Hill at Grater Woods

Commission to discuss and potentially approve a bridge project for the bottom of Gateway Hill on the Gateway Trail.

Vice Chairman Caron noted the project was identified from the Grater Woods Stewardship Plan, Appendix E, and deemed the most critical of the projects. The Forester provided information on a contractor utilized in the past. Vice Chairman Caron and the Forester met with the contractor and reviewed the bridge location at the bottom of Gateway Hill; off of Gateway Trail heading up towards the Amherst side of Grater Woods. The area is subject to water pooling resulting from traffic through a seasonally wet area. The area is not deemed a wetland. Construction of a bridge would alleviate the pooling.

The contractor has proposed a 54" wide by 32' long bridge. The bridge would be built into four sections offsite and assembled onsite by the contractor with the assistance of members of the Grater Woods Sub-Committee. Two days would be needed to set-up the site, assemble the four-section bridge, and build ramps up on either side. The proposed bridge will be suitable for ATV traffic as well as dirt bikes, pedestrian traffic, and snow mobiles as it will be equipped with snow rails on the sides and the center decking would be reinforced.

The quote received from Alpha Tractor Works LLC, was in the amount of \$3,284.62. Vice Chairman Caron informed the Commission he provided the quote and associated documentation to the Forester who responded in

writing stating he had the opportunity to review the quote, believes it would be a "very sturdy, well-built bridge", and that the quote "seems very reasonable taking into account the cost of the material and the cost of renting the mini-excavator". The Forester recommended the Commission proceed with hiring Alpha Tractor Works for this project.

Commissioner Davies questioned whether the quote was ever broken down into segment costs, and was informed it was not. He suggested, in the future, a request be made for individual components of a quote to be itemized.

Vice Chairman Caron noted the contractor is the same gentleman who built the gate at the top of Conservation Drive, and the quote for that project was written in the same manner. Commissioner Davies commented he was not questioning the cost, simply suggesting quotes, in the future, be itemized.

When asked about assurances the project is not within a wetland and no permits are required, Vice Chairman Caron stated it is a seasonally wet area which has sandy soils and drains. It only seems like a wet area because when it is wet (March, April, May) use does not stop. He noted the area has been posted during mud season; however, use continued. During the summer months the area is completely dry.

Commissioner Perry questioned the timeframe for project completion given the need to utilize an excavator and current ground conditions. Vice Chairman Caron noted the excavator is intended to be used to move rock, which will be used to abut the structure. Ground conditions and even snow should not interfere with project commencement. The intent is to place the bridge the weekend of December 27th.

Chairman Tenhave noted students would be on break, which would allow for easy access in and out through the school access point. It was also noted completion of the work during school vacation was a request of the school.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE PROVIDED BY ALPHA TRACTOR WORKS LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR DOLLARS AND SIXTY TWO CENTS AS WELL AS THE PLAN FOR INSTALLATION, AS WRITTEN. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN CONSERVATION FUND 51
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAVIES
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0

2. Resignation of Ron Davies from the Grater Woods Sub-Committee

Commission to accept the resignation of Ron Davies.

Commissioner Davies remarked when he originally agreed to become a member of the Sub-Committee it was done based on a few assumptions; first being that there were not enough people to fill the sub-committee and second a desire to ensure an abutter to the Grater Woods was a member. Having realized the sub-committee has sufficient membership, at least one individual interested in becoming a member who is an abutter to the property, and the fact there are presently three members of the Conservation Commission sitting on the sub-committee, he reached the decision it would be beneficial if members of the public wishing to participate were given the opportunity. As a result, he has submitted his resignation.

Commissioner Perry informed the Commission he has recently had a discussion with a member of the public who provided unsolicited praise of the individual (Jason Wright) interested in volunteering.

3. Appointment of Jason Wright as an Alternate to the Grater Woods Sub-Committee

Commission to discuss the potential appointment of Jason Wright.

Chairman Tenhave noted Mr. Wright was in attendance for the last Commission meeting as well as the most recent meeting of the Grater Woods Sub-Committee and participated in the bridge project conducted over the weekend. He commented he had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Wright regarding his interests, and believes he would make a great addition to the Sub-Committee.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO APPOINT JASON WRIGHT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE GRATER WOODS SUB-COMMITTEE TO FILL THE POSITION VACATED BY RON DAVIES, EXPIRING JULY 31, 2014

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission a member of the Horse Hill Nature Preserve Sub-Committee has provided written notification of his intent to resign from his position as a full member. The Commission has also received interest to become a member of the Sub-Committee from Angela Martin. He also noted the last alternate appointed may have an interest in filling the full time position. The issue will be addressed at a future meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Perry questioned the will of the Commission with regard to the seedling selection for the seedling giveaway. It was noted items remaining after last year's giveaway were largely evergreens. Chairman Tenhave stated a desire to place the order a bit earlier than previously to ensure the items most desired are available. He suggested a discussion item be placed on the Commission's agenda in January. Commissioner Perry will provide a copy of the pamphlet in advance of that time. Chairman Tenhave will provide a copy of the order made the previous year.

Commissioners Perry and Davies commented on how pleased they are with the bridge constructed on Beebe Lane. They thanked Vice Chairman Caron and the volunteers for their efforts.

Commissioner Perry noted the cross country and track teams are looking for additional routes. If plans or timeframes can be made known, there is the potential for support from track boosters as they are very interested in the availability of additional trails. He commented on the fact the Sparkler 5K race is not able to take its normal route with the closing of the Manchester Street Bridge.

Chairman Tenhave wished his colleagues and the residents of Merrimack happy holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0

The December 12, 2013 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan