



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MAY 19, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, May 19, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Tim Tenhave presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
Ron Davies
Gage Perry
Simon Thomson
Councilor Thomas Mahon

Members of the Commission Absent: Thomas Lehman
Michael Boisvert, Alternate
Robert Croatti, Alternate
Lauren Kras, Alternate

Also in Attendance: Evan Petrie, 10 Windover Lane, Scout Troop 48
Jim Taylor, Assistant Director, Wastewater

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS

1. Eagle Project Proposal – Life Scout Evan Petrie

Evan to present a bridge design and project for a new bridge at Grater Woods.

Life Scout Petrie spoke of the proposed Eagle Scout project, and explained the project entails the construction of two (2) bridges within Grater Woods with the anticipation the project will be complete by the end of June or July. He displayed a photo of a bridge constructed by the Grater Woods Sub-Committee, which is similar in design to what is being proposed.

The first bridge (30') would connect with an existing structure, and would be constructed near the entrance to Beebe Lane (Drilled Rock Trail). A hand drawn map was provided indicating how the trail would be diverted (around island). The process is underway to gain approval from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) relative to the associated wetland impact. Also sought from NHDES is direction with regard to center support (perhaps two 4x4s sunk into the ground (island in center)). When asked if the sub-committee would be involved in the diversion of the trail, Life Scout Petrie responded he would undertake that task as well.

Tasks associated with the first bridge would be to divert the trail from the beginning, uproot two small trees, remove shrubbery, and sink the center support into the ground. Tasks associated with the second bridge would be to divert the island trail through the small tree and shrubbery and construct the bridge (20'). When asked, he stated there to be an elevation change as you traverse around the island. Photographs were provided showing the area where the trail would meet up with the existing trail. Life Scout Petrie noted pallets/bridges located on the current trail will be removed to discourage use.

The proposed bridges are 18-20' long and 3' wide. Support beams will be two 2x12s bolted and glued together to create a 4x12 with planks atop (20' long). Floorboards will be 2x8x3. Abutments (either side) will be 6x6 beams staked into the ground. Center support of the 30' bridge will likely be two 4x4s driven into the ground.

Total projected cost is \$1,035. It was noted some materials are anticipated to be donated. Fundraising efforts will consist of solicitation of family, friends, local businesses, etc. Other possibilities include a pancake breakfast, yard sale, bake sales, etc. Fundraising plans have not yet been finalized.

When asked, Life Scout Petrie stated he has discussed the project with the Grater Woods Sub-Committee. Commissioner Perry remarked the areas of impact are both areas where the construction of bridges would have the potential to allow the school to use the trails even more as part of their cross-country course. Vice Chairman Caron informed the Commission the Sub-committee met with Life Scout Petrie the prior week and had visited the site along with Life Scout Petrie the prior month. The Sub-committee has had the opportunity to provide recommendations/input, which has been reflected in the plan. Chairman Tenhave noted the trail is a Class B trail.

Life Scout Petrie stated his belief the Permit Application (minimum wetland impact) for NHDES requires the signature of the Commission. Chairman Tenhave explained, once the Application is filled out it should be provided to the Town Clerk. It will be stamped as received, and any fee collected. The Town Clerk then disburses copies of the permit (NHDES, Conservation Commission, etc.). At that point, the intent for an Expedited Wetland Permit could be filed, which would come to the Commission for sign-off.

Commissioner Davies suggested Margarita's in Nashua could be a location for conducting a fundraiser. He explained the restaurant conducts events where a particular night is set aside on which anyone referencing the fundraising effort would have a percentage of their bill go directly towards that effort. It was noted a number of local restaurants conduct similar fundraising events. Chairman Tenhave remarked if made aware of fundraising events in advance, he could post information on www.merrimackoutdoors.org. Vice Chairman Caron added requests for volunteers could also be posted on the website if the information is provided.

The consensus of the Commission was agreement with the project moving forward. Vice Chairman Caron volunteered to serve as the point person for the project.

2. Compost Presentation – Jim Taylor

Commission to receive a presentation on the Merrimack Compost operation by Assistant Director for Wastewater, Jim Taylor. Commission to learn about the make-up of the compost, how it is produced, where it is used, how best for residents to use it, and how residents can acquire it for free.

James Taylor, Assistant Director/Wastewater, stated the Merrimack composting facility began operation in 1994. The operation utilizes raw material from the wastewater treatment process, which is sludge that has to be stabilized in some manner. Sawdust, finished compost, and raw dewatered sludge are composted under controlled conditions. It can be used for landscaping, golf courses, and to improve soil conditions. It is also a component in top soil manufacturing.

Biosolids is a term that was defined as a means of distinguishing it from untreated sludges as sludge can be hazardous. This was a way to show it has been further processed and is safe to use. There are two different methods towns use; Class A and Class B. Alcolin stabilization is typically used on farm fields to enhance crop production or grass. That designation is Class B. Some of the larger cities pelletize their sludge and move it off to areas like Florida and Texas. That is a Class A product. What the Town of Merrimack does is composting, which is a Class A product as well. When composting heat is generated, which raises the temperature to 55° Celsius for 3 days (equivalent of 130° Fahrenheit). After that the temperature has to meet 45° Celsius for 14 days in order to achieve Class A.

Assistant Director Taylor remarked composts and biosolids in general are very highly regulated and studied. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has their own set of rules and New Hampshire has its rules, which are more stringent and protective of human health and the environment. Typically the departments tests for heavy metals, pesticides, PCBs, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile compounds, dioxin, and herbicides. It is required that a label be produced identifying how to use the compost, qualities, and some of the restrictions. Typically the Wastewater Treatment Plant takes in commercial, residential, and industrial wastewaters. There is an industrial pre-treatment program that regulates what can come down the pipe so it is protective of not only the plant affluent, but the compost. Nothing ever goes away; whatever is flushed ends up in the treatment process, and some of it goes in the sludge.

The compost can easily meet all of the EPA and State requirements. Typically we meet the low metals sludge quality certification that NHDES requires. He commented it is pretty much the best quality compost in the northeast. The plant generates a minimum of \$8/yard with the marketing agent. Typically it generates about \$11/cubic yard. Some of the offsetting costs of operating come from the sale of compost. About 80% of marketing is done through Agrisource who markets to MA, NH, VT, and NY. About 20% goes to landscapers and residents. The quality of the compost is protected through industrial pre-treatment and testing and collecting of numerous samples throughout the interval of wastewater and compost. Other communities rely on Merrimack as a way of complying with their responsibility to manage their wastewater sludge. Currently Jaffrey, Hooksett, Amesbury, MA, Bristol, Henniker, and Milford are charged a tipping fee to bring their sludge to Merrimack.

Photographs were provided of the inside of the operation; one of which depicted a series of 6' wide x 220' long concrete bins. On top of the bins are rails. There is a machine that does the mixing and moves the finished product to a discharge end and the raw material back into the bays. Within each bay is a layer of woodchips, stone, and aeration piping. Air is blown up through the pipes, which helps to enhance the compost process.

Compost is not typically used as mulch, but rather more of a soil amendment. Some of the properties of compost are organic matter. It has beneficial microbiology, which then promotes plant growth and development. It also has essential nutrients such as Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium.

Soil organic matter creates better structure, less compaction and surface crusting, improved filtration and aeration, and improved water holding capacity (soil with 5% organic contents holds 1.88 gallons of plant available water. A 10,000 sq. ft. lawn can hold nearly 19,000 gallons). It is also available for some of the micronutrients like Potassium, Calcium, and Magnesium. Also Carbon sequestration; helps to reduce CO₂. Through microbial action it helps to degrade some toxic organic molecules that can be found in pesticides; petroleum hydrocarbon and solvents. It also helps to decrease soil erosion.

Assistant Director Taylor spoke of the different applications, and noted there are limitations. Because it is fairly high in Nitrogen NHDES regulations require 35' from a pond, stream, or lake. If wishing to use more than 5 acres, NHDES desires use of a nutrient management plan. Compost doesn't really release Nitrogen until it starts breaking down; however, they wish to be careful it is not stockpiled next to a pond where you could potentially get runoff.

Fees for compost; if a resident were to arrive in a pickup truck or with barrels or buckets, there is no charge. A resident card is issued, which is good for the year (issued at main office). With that card residents can return as often as they wish. If someone is coming in to buy volume (dump truck), residents and local landscapers are charged \$5 and anyone outside of Merrimack is charged \$10. Application forms can be located on the Town website.

Assistant Director Taylor remarked it is a safe product to use, meets all of the highest standards, enhances the health of soil, releases nutrients when plants need them during the growing season, and is free to Town residents. It can be picked up at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

When asked if this process is unique to Merrimack or something many other towns partake in, Assistant Director Taylor responded Milford had been composting until recently. Plymouth used to and have also decided not to any longer. He remarked it is not an inexpensive process, but with the tipping fees and sale of compost it is basically the least expensive alternative. Plus it is sustainable for the long-term.

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Beaver Activity and Beaver Management Study RFP Response

Commission to discuss recent beaver problem areas and discuss what it wishes to do. Commission to review the response from our RFP and decide how to proceed. Areas to include the unnamed Meadowood pond by Powderhouse and Mayflower Roads as was discussed in May of 2013.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of areas where the Town has been actively addressing beaver issues. One such area is at the intersection of Naticook Road and Greens Pond Road. Commissioner Perry noted he visited the area recently and found it to be very active.

When asked if he is aware of other active areas, outside of Powderhouse Road, Commissioner Perry responded he has been behind Grater Woods and witnessed a good deal of beaver chew on the outlet of beaver meadow. There continues to be a good deal of activity behind Madison Lane (much smaller trees than were present this time last year). There have been no other complaints; have not heard from residents down along Brookside Drive, which was an area actively trapped last season. Chairman Tenhave questioned what has been viewed in the area of Meadowood Pond by Powderhouse and Mayflower Roads. Commissioner Perry stated the area was viewed after the bid opening. Paul Micali, Director, Finance Department, wished to see the area and understand the situation. He commented it is a difficult situation as all abutters enjoy the pond. It impacts one resident badly. Per the management policy, the Public Works Department (PWD) is somewhat tied to the decision of the Commission as to what can be done until it reaches an emergency situation. Although badly impacting one resident, it is not an emergency (septic tank/house set high).

Chairman Tenhave provided a photograph of the location of the beaver box and noted water is supposed to be flowing, but obviously it is clogged. The box is very short and was one that PWD had on hand. As a result personnel are visiting the site on a regular basis trying to keep the area free and flowing. It is a lot of work for a very short period of time; beaver dam it up within two days. Commissioner Perry stated there to be a difference of a few feet between the varying levels. Residents want the pond to be at an identified level. Every time the beaver box is fixed the water level goes down resulting in 2' of shoreline that is all mud and smelly. That is the cycle the residents want stopped. He stated there to be the need for a Town management plan to identify the height, which would allow the PWD to manage the parcel.

Chairman Tenhave provided photographs taken the prior week, which showed sticks going over the top of the beaver box, and some taken last year when the beaver box was exposed. He remarked last year when it was stated the current level was what was desired everything was fine. However, this year the situation is different due to the level of beaver activity. He believes the current level to be 3-4" higher than it was at the time of the public hearing conducted last year.

He questioned the will of the Commission with regard to taking any kind of immediate action or making this area a priority spot for the Beaver Management Study, which would likely result in potential action later in the summer. Commissioner Perry stated the concept to be correct; however, not enough for the level of activity, e.g., the current beaver box is short, there should be more than 1, etc. He suggested there to be a litany of issues that should be addressed. To have the 1 box is unmanageable for the PWD. Commissioner Thomson stated a preference for some sort of action sooner rather than later. He remarked a year has passed and the Commission continues to struggle with the same issues. He questioned whether a consistently steady level would satisfy the neighbors. Commissioner Perry stated his interpretation to be the neighbors would be happy if the water level were not continually going up and down. All residents had expressed sympathy to Mrs. Thompson with regard to how her property is impacted; however, for them the pond it is aesthetically pleasing. They agree with taking it down to a manageable level without draining it. The previous level was manageable for her. When asked, Chairman Tenhave stated Mrs. Thompson has been in to speak with the Town Manager and others, and is very concerned. Commissioner Perry noted Mrs. Thompson's property is at the lowest part of the water, and everyone else is 6-8' up from there.

Councilor Mahon questioned whether the management plan would provide for anything different than what has been discussed, e.g., 2-3 additional beaver boxes, etc. Chairman Tenhave stated the management plan could speak to beaver removal. If the beaver were removed and the dam left in place there would be a level, assuming the dam would not destruct, which it would eventually. At that point, the level would wash out and the level would return to that set by the manmade (24" drop). He stated his belief Mrs. Thompson is advocating for beaver removal due to the impact on her property. He commented that was something the Commission was very hesitant to do last year knowing it would be a process that would have to be undertaken again at some point as the beavers would return. The Management Plan could recommend removal of the beaver and slowly draining the pond down to the manmade level to avoid a huge flush of water trying to go through, which would be potentially disastrous to residents on Turkey Hill Road.

Commissioner Perry stated there to be other leveling devices, which may be appropriate for this area. Councilor Mahon remarked the more criteria that can be used and applied to the situation the easier it will likely be to manage the situation. Chairman Tenhave stated his recommendation, unless an unusual rainwater event occurs,

the Commission should withhold any new changes until the completion of the Management Study, and that it be made clear this is a priority area to be addressed this summer. Commissioner Perry stated the RFP included specific language stating the execution of the management plan will be part of immediate recommendations to ten heavy areas that are seen as problem areas.

Agreement was stated. Chairman Tenhave will follow up with Adam Jacobs, Operations Manager, Public Works Department and request that cleaning continue.

Chairman Tenhave noted one response was received to the Request for Proposal (RFP). A number of potential bidders chose not to bid; one had some confusion over the scope of the project, a few indicated they were simply too busy and the scope of the project too large, and one of the 8 identified to have the RFP sent directly to could no longer be reached. Commissioner Perry stated the response received was on target. He noted he has spoken with a few of the references provided and received positive feedback. The response received was from GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA). The proposal is complete and addressed all issues included in the RFP. The proposed cost is \$22,329. Chairman Tenhave remarked the proposal discusses GZA utilizing some of their own funds to utilize drone technology (remote control unit) to reach areas that might not otherwise be reached. Information provided would be in GIS format, which he would ensure is compatible with the Town's GIS system. Commissioner Perry noted reference to layers being included in the Town's GIS so that items such as duck boxes could be pinpointed. Commissioner Thomson questioned compatibility. Chairman Tenhave suggested that be made a mandatory requirement.

Chairman Tenhave remarked one of the potential bidders provided feedback that GZA is a good firm, and he believed the Town would receive a good product from them. Commissioner Perry commented he spoke with a representative of the Cooperative Extension, which will be conducting a talk on beaver management later in the summer, and wishes to use this as an example. They are excited the Town is pursuing this, which is something they don't believe has been done much in this area, and wish to be kept apprised of the progress.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARON TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC., MANCHESTER, NH, CONTINGENT UPON COMPATABILITY WITH THE TOWN'S GIS SYSTEM, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS (\$24,561.90) OR AN INCREASE OF TEN PERCENT (10%) OVER THE PRICE QUOTED. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND 53
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THOMSON**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Tenhave noted negotiations will be necessary in order to come to a final price, begin scheduling, etc. Commissioner Perry stated a willingness to remain involved in the process, and volunteered to serve as the point person. Commissioner Thomson agreed to serve as an alternate point person.

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-0

Chairman Tenhave spoke of numerous references to the "Town" within the RFP, and requested Ms. Simpson be asked to make it very clear it is the Commission's project and funds, and it is the Commission that is the primary on this project from the Town's perspective, acknowledging there will be a great deal of assistance needed from the PWD.

Commissioner Perry noted there will be a conference of Conservation Commissions hosted by the UNH Cooperative Extension in the Matthew Thornton Room at the end of the season. When finalized, information on date, time, etc. will be provided (tentatively scheduled for 9-12-14 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.). He noted he would put forward a request for funds to cover the cost of refreshments.

1. Invasive plants found at 8, 10, and 18 Brookside Drive

Commission to discuss issues with invasive plants on private property at 8 Brookside Drive and Town Conservation property at 10 and 18 Brookside Drive.

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission a resident of 8 Brookside Drive contacted the Town to inform of issues relative to invasive species. It is her belief 6 different invasive species are present on her property. The species were identified by someone at the State level as well as a member of the Amherst Conservation Commission. The property owner is of the belief the invasives came off Town property. Three of her borders are

Town owned land. She has requested the Commission review the situation. Her lot abuts the wetland. She has an 8' retaining wall that keeps water from coming into her basement and backyard. The lot was created back in the '70s; however, was not built upon until 2003. He commented in this day and age there would never have been a buildable lot.

A photograph was provided of the lot. In the photo Japanese Knotweed can be seen as well as other invasives. The situation progressed to the point where the property owner had to cut off shrubs that were being taken down. At the property line is Japanese Knotweed just starting to shoot up (can grow inches in a matter of days). He spoke of belief yard waste is being deposited on the Commission property, and comments made that young kids are using the Knotweed as swords, e.g., will snap off a piece, take off the branches, and use for jousting, etc., which only means the little pieces of Knotweed are landing elsewhere. It takes a very small piece to allow for new plants to grow. It is extremely invasive and there are no natural enemies in this area. Commissioner Perry spoke of the stream being the same one that comes from Madison and Mitchell Woods; the original plant must be between there and Brookside Drive.

The retaining wall located on 8 Brookside Drive is about 8' from the back door of the residence. Behind it is a true wetland. Knotweed is definitely within the wetland. The Knotweed is both on that property and Commission property. The property owner has stated, this year, the invasives have come from one side of the retaining wall to the other.

The photographs displayed the extensive area of invasives as well as other issues such as chicken feces located within feet of the wetland on a neighboring property (6 Brookside Drive), lawn clippings, ash, pallets, and trailers, which appear to be located on Commission property. The necessary forms have been filed for the Town to look into the issue of the trailer storage, etc.

The Japanese Knotweed stops before entering the water. Chairman Tenhave stated his belief it does not survive well in the water; however, some of the other invasives such as the Multiflora Rose do. There is a small bridge on the Town lot (origin unknown). When you cross the first stream area you arrive on a small island, which has Knotweed located on it. Across the brook, on Commission property, Knotweed can also be seen (18 Brookside Drive). Commissioner Perry noted the area is one that was actively trapped last year. He questioned whether beaver might be contributing to the spread of invasives.

Chairman Tenhave questioned the will of the Commission. He suggested the need to gather additional information to determine options that may be available to address the issue. He commented if the Commission should determine to take action to assist the landowner the unintended consequence could be the setting of precedent for other private property matters. He noted if the property owner were to take action to eradicate the issue on her own property it would only be a matter of time before the effort would have to be repeated. The Commission has a serious issue that could impact not only the area being discussed, but anything downstream.

Councilor Mahon questioned the type of remediation. Chairman Tenhave was uncertain given the proximity to the wetland. He stated his desire had been to make the Commission aware of the situation. He informed the landowner she should not anticipate an immediate response from the Commission, but to make sure she does whatever she needs to in order to protect her property, and the Commission will continue to review the situation and determine what action to take. He stated his belief it is necessary for the Commission to seek the advice of an expert on invasives. He suggested requesting the Forester, who is also licensed for invasives, review the situation and provide a recommendation. He suggested the State could also be contacted and asked to provide advice.

The Commission stated agreement to solicit the assistance of the Forester and authorize the expenditure of funds necessary to provide a recommendation for addressing the issue in this area. The Commission also authorized the Chairman to contact the State for opinion/advice as well as Legal Counsel to seek a legal opinion with regard to actions the Commission may or may not consider to address the current issue. Councilor Mahon stated a desire for the legal opinion to identify whether or not there is a liability issue as the invasives appear to be stemming from Town property.

Commissioner Perry stated a desire to hear the opinion of Commissioner Kras. Vice Chairman Caron noted the Commission property is located downstream from the parcel being affected. Chairman Tenhave stated his impression, during the spring the water level comes up into the parcel resulting in the area having two residences and a wet parcel in the middle. Commissioner Perry reiterated the stream comes out of Mitchell Woods (upstream).

OTHER BUSINESS

- Wasserman Conservation Area – Annual LCIP Property Walk and Report

Vice Chairman Caron spoke of encountering 12 deer in the course of an hour and a half. He stated the only alarming issue he came across was the span between the dam on Naticook and where it opens up into Greens Pond there is a narrow waterway, which is crossed about 4 times with access trails that go into the adjacent parcel. One of those crossings looks to be frequently used by an ATV. If going towards the Greens Pond end there is a field, which is posted no motorized vehicles. However, if looking into the field you can see a great deal of use is occurring. It appears motorists come through the field and follow the stream. The Commission's property is signed at that end (near Greens Pond). Signage states Merrimack Conservation Commission, no motorized use. However, the frequently used crossing is not signed. Vice Chairman Caron stated intent to post signage all along the property line.

It was noted all of the Wasserman Conservation Area prohibits motorized use, by Deed and as part of the LCIP agreement. Vice Chairman Caron spoke of use by snowmobiles. It was restated all motorized use is prohibited. Chairman Tenhave commented the Commission helped propagate that use by letting the Sno-Buds and the Winter Carnival go on. Councilor Mahon suggested the Police Department be made aware.

- Grater Woods Forestry Project Status

Vice Chairman Caron stated information has not yet been received from the Forester. He has reached out, and is awaiting a response. Chairman Tenhave stated he would broach the subject when contacting the Forester regarding the issue of invasives.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of the intent to include the following items on the Commission's June 2nd agenda:

- Forestry Plans
- Fertilizer Discussion
- Trail Stabilization Project

There is also a possibility the Commission will meet with the School Board on June 2nd. In that instance, the Commission would recess its meeting for a brief period.

Vice Chairman Caron informed the Commission three weeks prior much of the Grater Woods property was signed. Since that time a good many of the signs have been removed. He met on Saturday with Merrimack Police to identify what was missing and the location from where the signage was taken. They informed him since the signs were not simply taken down and thrown (vandalism), but removed it is considered theft of Town property. They are actively looking into what or who was responsible. The target of the property theft seemed to be specifically those which stated no motorized. The signs have been replaced, and more aggressively fastened. When asked, he stated the area where the signage was removed was not concentrated; all were removed with the exception of the very first at Beebe Lane.

Commissioner Davies spoke of being approached by an abutter residing on Marty Drive, who informed him of instances over the past few weekends where he has heard gun shots along the trail in Grater Woods. He advised the resident to contact the Police Department.

Vice Chairman Caron noted the prior Saturday the Grater Woods Sub-committee conducted a project on Gateway Hill; replaced the ramps to the bridge with a more stable compound and placed two significant water diversions on the hill.

Commissioner Perry spoke of the seedling giveaway; turnout was low for the first weekend and improved for the second. Overall turnout was low. He suggested the quantity of seedlings purchased be reassessed in advance of next year's event. He noted Mr. Currier volunteered the use of his facility and cared for all of the plants. The remaining seedlings will be housed there, and a sign has been placed on the road notifying residents of the availability of free seedlings. Chairman Tenhave suggested the sub-committees give consideration to obtaining some of the remaining Spruce, Black Walnut, etc.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. April 21, 2014

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THOMSON

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-1

Councilor Mahon Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Councilor Mahon informed the Commission the Wasserman timber project will complete this week. He noted there was a fair amount of discussion at the Town Council Retreat regarding moving forward on some projects at Wasserman Park to try and preserve what is there and begin looking into developing an access and parking area closer to the lake. He noted the Parks and Recreation Director will manage that process for the Town. The Council was complimentary in their remarks about activities at Grater Woods as well as other conservation areas.

Commissioner Thomson stated the Wildcat Falls Sub-committee met the prior Monday at Wildcat Falls and spent 2½ hours working on the north loop trail (new trail). A few signs were posted to divert the public from areas of private property. The goal over the summer months is to come up with a good trail map.

Vice Chairman Caron remarked when he and Chairman Tenhave walked Wasserman Park they walked the Bear Facts Trail and had to come out to the sidewalk to get to the Quarry Trail. He suggested a trail be put in that connects the Bear Facts Trail to the Quarry Trail where the new signpost was just put in. He stated a desire to also address fixing the ramp that goes up to the sidewalk from Quarry Trail; obtaining road base from Mr. Jacobs and packing it in. He questioned the will of the Commission.

The Commission stated agreement with the work being performed.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of washout coming from the sidewalk into the Quarry Trail area and suggested Mr. Jacobs is made aware the sidewalk is in jeopardy (washed out under the sidewalk). He suggested it may be appropriate for the PWD to be involved in the project or conduct it themselves. Chairman Tenhave stated he would put out a service request.

Commissioner Davies noted his term will expire in June. He remarked he has learned a great deal over the past year and a half. He stated he is at a point where he can no longer volunteer the level of time required by the position, and stated his decision not to seek re-appointment.

Chairman Tenhave noted the terms expiring are those of Commissioners Davies and Thomson, and alternate member Boisvert. They can expect to receive a letter from the Town Manager's Office questioning whether they desire re-applying. Chairman Tenhave noted anyone interested in becoming a member of the Commission is encouraged to submit an application.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THOMSON TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-0

The May 19, 2014 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan