

DRAFT
North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2019

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant (Co-Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior Phil Thayer and Andrew Vorkink via phone.

Members of the public: Mark Collins, Karen Collins, and Jenn Rowden, Rockingham Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to permit Andrew Vorkink to participate remotely in the meeting. The motion carried.

Approval of June 11, 2019 Draft Minutes: After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Laurie Etela, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to approve the minutes with one correction on the last page.*** The motion carried with a roll call vote.

New Business:

NH DES Wetlands Permit Application (Standard Review, Minimum Impact) Driveway Culvert and Utility Wetlands Crossing for Single Family Residence, 46 Chapel Road, North Hampton, NH Tax Map 5, Lot 39 (June 2019). Prepared for Pensco Trust Company, P.O. Box 173859, Denver CO 80217 fbo Mark Collins IRA (Owner & Applicant) P.O. Box 420, North Hampton, NH 03862. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Laurie Etela, to approve the expedited permit and to authorize the Chair to draft a letter to NHDES stating that the North Hampton Conservation Commission reviewed the application and has no objectives to the proposed wetlands crossing providing all work complies with NH DES and Army Corps of Engineer requirements.*** The motion carried with a roll call.

NHDES Grant Opportunities: Jenn Rowden, Senior Planner Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) discussed with Commission a *NH Coastal Resilience Municipal Planning Grant* and potential 604 b Water Quality (septic System Database/Pump-Out Regulation) grant opportunities. Jenn Rowden met with Little Boar's Head and other boards and commissions in Town to discuss potential plans to draft a *Coastal Hazard and Adaptation Master Plan Chapter*.

NH Coastal Resilience Municipal Planning Grant: The requested *NH Coastal Resilience Municipal Planning Grant* amount can be between \$10,000 and \$30,000 and requires that the municipality(ies) contribute a 2:1 match of in kind/cash. Jenn Rowden estimates that a joint project with North Hampton and Little Boar's Head would cost

approximately \$12,000 to \$16,000 in grant funds, with \$6,000 to \$8,000 required in in-kind/cash match from the Town or LBH. With good involvement, in-kind match could likely be most of the match required. The timeframe for the project would be to start in March 2020 and end by June 2021. The grant application is due July 26, 2019.

RPC can work with the Town/LBH to draft the project application and can apply on the Town/LBH's behalf with consent. If the project is awarded, RPC would be the project facilitator and work with a project committee on the drafting of the Master Plan chapter(s). Jenn Rowden discussed that a component of the 604b grant opportunity might include an assessment of vulnerable septic systems to be included in the *Coastal Hazard and Adaptation Master Plan Chapter*. A letter in support of the *NH Coastal Resilience Municipal Planning Grant* from the Conservation Commission will be considered at the August meeting of the Conservation Commission. ***A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Lauri Etela, to approve the prospective letter in support of the grant opportunity.*** The motion carried with a roll call vote.

604 b Water Quality Grant Opportunity: The Commission also discussed the 604 b water quality grant opportunity which does not require an in-kind match. The RPC would apply on behalf of the Town. After much discussion, the Commission wants to seek the opinion and approval of the Select Board and Planning Board before applying for the grant and to help define the scope of work. The 604 b grant scope of work is intended to include the creation of a septic system database, a tool that lists all the property owners on septic to include data about the age and type of system. One purpose of having a septic system database is to encourage regular pump-outs and maintenance of septic systems. A septic system database is a tool to help the Town facilitate a possible pump-out regulation.

Jenn Rowden discussed the possibility of ranking septic systems according to their location to water sources and risk of pollution to include in the scope of work. A septic system pump-out regulation does not have to be included in the scope of work for this 604 b grant application, but might be considered by Town officials at a later date. ***After some discussion, a motion was made by Frank Arcidiacono, duly seconded by Phil Thayer to move forward with the 604 b grant application after first discussing and determining the scope of work with the Planning and Select Boards and to seek the Boards' approvals.*** The motion carried with a roll call vote.

Septic System Database/Pump-out Regulation: Kathy Grant reported that the attendees at the Land Use Summit suggested that the Conservation Commission form a committee to discuss the adoption of a possible pump-out regulation.

Jenn Rowden will also plan to discuss the 604 b grant – septic system database grant application with the Planning Board on Tuesday, July 16. Lisa Wilson will plan to discuss the grant application with the Select Board prior to the August meeting of the Conservation Commission and application deadline. At the August meeting of the

Conservation Commission, the Commission will then discuss the outcome of discussions with the Planning Board and Select Board to determine whether to request that the RPC apply for the 604 b grant on behalf of the Town.

Jenn Rowden also discussed the **MS4 Permit Program Requirements (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System)**. Jenn Rowden reported that public outreach and education is a required component of completing the stormwater management plan for North Hampton. The Conservation Commission discussed the Commission's drafting educational literature about the importance of maintaining septic systems to be mailed to residents this fall. A mailing would help satisfy the public outreach component, possibly paid for from Town funds reserved to comply with the MS4 permitting process.

Philbrick Pond Drainage Project Meeting: The Commission discussed replacing the V-notch cobble weir with a concrete slab at the upstream side of the culvert on Ocean Boulevard (Route 1A) that drains the Philbrick Pond saltmarsh. This work is projected to increase the tidal range in the pond from 5 inches to 16 inches, which will improve the health of the saltmarsh. The Commission also discussed the implementation of runneling (creation of shallow channels) to improve the health of the marsh and better control the mosquito population. ***After some discussion, a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to authorize the Vice Chair, Kathy Grant, to draft a letter to the Select Board suggesting replacing the v-notch cobble weir with a concrete slab and to recommend restoration/runneling efforts.*** The motion carried with a roll call vote.

Old Business

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: – Nothing to report at this time.

Trail Maintenance: Phil Thayer reported that Donny Knowles will begin work on at Dustin Farm the week of July 9 and the Eagle Scout Project clearing will take place on the weekends of July 20 and July 27. Phil has contracted with Mark Lariviere to mow the Community Garden for \$400. John Hubbard and the Highway Department removed weeds and cleaned-up the Dalton Town forest. Phil Thayer will get an estimate to construct a split-rail fence at the Dalton Town Forest to prevent cars from driving on to the trail.

Water Quality Testing Update: The Commission received the final test results for water quality testing of the Little River Salt Marsh water quality testing on June 10. The NH Public Health Laboratories report indicated that there were no problem areas and that the low ecoli counts all fit into naturally occurring marsh bacteria level. Commissioners suggested to test one more time in August after a rain event. ***A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono to have the Chair write to the NHDES to request testing following a rain event before Labor Day if possible.*** The motion carried with a roll call vote.

Conservation Monitoring Land Updates: Emails dated June 13, 2019 and July 3, 2019 from Danielle Almeida, SELT Conservation Steward, reported monitoring findings. The SELT monitor noted that it appeared the neighbors had dumped new yard debris along the trail at the Little River conservation parcel. SELT noted that it sent a certified letter to the abutter last year and at present recommends that the Town may want to consider brushing in the trail and possibly putting a “No Dumping” sign along the boundary. The SELT monitor also reported that it appeared an electric dog fence slightly encroached onto the northwestern corner of the Property. SELT has since revisited Forest Hills Farm and has appeared to resolve the issue as noted in the July 3 email.

Potential SCA Corps Application Information (trail to LRC): At the June meeting, the Conservation Commission authorized the Chair to determine whether SCA Corps would conduct a feasibility study for a trail to LRC, to include the cost of materials. SCA Corps does not conduct feasibility studies, but will assess the merits of a proposed project only after having received a completed Project Proposal Form. A Draft Project Proposal requires a description of the scope of work to include supporting documents. The completion of this form does not in any way obligate the Town to engage SCA Corps should SCA Corps decide this project has merit for review and consideration.

The Conservation Commission proposes to construct a 4000 linear foot path on town-owned conservation land to a 24 acres parcel of conservation land (Little River Conservancy -LRC). The path will consist of uplands and wetlands crossings, is to be well-marked to guide the public to the conservation parcel and to help prevent the public from trespassing onto abutting properties. The entrance off Woodland Road is 50 feet wide with room for a natural gravel parking area. The design might include plantings to ensure that the path entrance maintains its natural look.

Phil Thayer suggested contacting Eben Lewis to review the site to locate wetland crossings to obtain the necessary wetlands crossings permits from the DES. The Chair suggested we might invite Eben Lewis or another representative from the DES to walk the land with the Conservation Commission if the SCA Corps deems the project to have merit and the chooses to evaluate the site for consideration.

SCA Corps provides skilled and motivated crews of 6-7 members that work 11-day hitches in the field (10 work days, 1 day off). The crew prefers to work on 11 days hitches for a fee of \$10,500 plus materials. “On hitch” includes a crew of 5-7 trained members, conservation coordinator and crew supervisor support including: project oversight and supervision for project-specific training and risk management; 24 Hour emergency response system; tools and equipment required to complete the agreed upon project including: vehicles, field tools, food, and camp equipment; complete liability and worker’s compensation insurance coverage for the SCA crew and staff; and SCA administrative support.

A camp site for the crew near a water supply will need to be determined and discussed

with Town officials. The Commission wants to know whether the Select Board will consider supporting this project and whether in addition to the use of conservation funds, Town funds might be available to help pay for the project – projected costs include the \$10,500 fee for the 11-day hitch, cost of materials, and DES permit application fees.

A motion was made by Laurie Etela, duly seconded by Andrew Vorkink, to authorize the Chair to proceed with the application process. The motion carried with a roll call vote.

Correspondance:

In an email dated June 26, 2019 from Eben Lewis, NHDES Wetlands Bureau File 2019-00653, 58 Lafayette Road, North Hampton Tax Map 7 Lot 118 reported that that the 160 linear feet of impact to the intermittent stream classifies the project as a minor impact. DES guidelines for projects that alter or disturb less than 200 linear feet of an intermittent or perennial nontidal stream or river channel are classified as minor impact projects. If NHDES does not receive a complete response by August 25, 2019, the application for the permit will be denied.

Other Business: Mike Lynch wrote to the Chair to notify the Conservation Commission that he will be stepping down from the Conservation Commission due to his busy schedule and for personal reasons. Mike will be very much missed. The Commission thanked Mike Lynch for his service on the Commission and will send a letter to Mike thanking him for his service and will notify the Select Board.

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Lisa Wilson thanked John Hubbard and the Highway Department for clearing the weeds and for the general maintenance work at the Dalton Town Forest.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Moore
Recording Secretary

“These minutes were prepared within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by the majority vote by the Commission.”