

North Hampton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021

Administrative:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom and Channel 22 from the Town Hall.

Roll Call:

Members present Town Hall: Lisa Wilson (Chair); Present via Zoom: Kathy Grant (Co-Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Dave Ciccalone, Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior and Andrew Vorkink

Approval of January 12, 2021 Draft Minutes:

After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to approve the minutes.*** Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

New Business:

NH DOT Municipal Agreement for the Town of North Hampton for the Philbrick Pond Culvert:

The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft NH DOT municipal and maintenance agreement. With permission from property landowners where work will take place, plans are now in place to remove the cobble stone weir located along Route 1-A that has been restricting tidal flow at *Philbrick Pond*. A concrete slab, two-feet in thickness, will be installed set to the culvert's inlet elevation to stabilize the culvert and maintain the desired stream channel elevation to improve tidal flushing. This work will improve the health of the marsh by increasing the tidal range approximately 12-inches. The concrete slab, which will be installed below grade, should not require any maintenance. The agreement states that any maintenance done will be subject to the approval of the landowners and that this agreement only applies this project. The engineer for the project noted that in the unlikely event that adjacent boulders shift their position, they can be repositioned with a back hoe. On February 22, 2021 the Select Board: approved the project project, the proposed maintenance agreement, and authorized Mike Tully to sign the NH DOT agreement on behalf of the Select Board. ***A motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, that should maintenance be required, the Commission shall cause such maintenance to be provided under the provision in the Draft Paragraph C and to authorize Frank Arcidiacono to continue any negotiations pertaining to Paragraph C with the Town Administrator.*** Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: Andrew Vorkink briefed the Commission of the Status of the Nordstrom Conservation Donation of 39 acres. Conditional Use Permits and waivers to the Town of North Hampton Subdivision Regulations have been obtained from the Planning Board for the proposed 2.6-acre building lot and subdivision of the property.

The required variances from the Zoning Board (4-1 vote) have also been obtained to subdivide the 42-acre lot. Subdivision of the property was necessary to create a 2.6-acre building lot in the southern portion of the lot to enable the Town to own the conservation land, provide public access, and to limit impacts to wetlands located within the headwaters of the Little River.

Next steps will include the following approvals from the Select Board during the Select Board Public Hearing continued to March 8, 2021:

- Formally accept the donation of 39 acres located on Map 17, Lot 71.
- Authorize the Chair of the Conservation Commission to accept and sign the conservation warranty deed.
- Abate the Current Use Penalty or Land Use Change Tax once such penalty is determined by the tax assessor, which will be 10% of the assessed value of such lot.

The acquisition will be finalized after the NH DES wetlands permits for the driveway have been obtained, a process which may take as long as 50 -75 days. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to authorize expenditures from up to \$25,000 to up to \$30 000 to complete the Nordstrom acquisition to include any additional fees for engineering and legal work.*** Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Other Business:

The Commission was informed by Alexis Rudko, the NH DOT Recreational Trail Program Specialist, that the project was approved by the Historical Review Committee. Next steps will include finalizing and mapping the trail, application for any NH DES permits, then ordering materials for constructing the trail.

Under the direction of Phil Thayer, Boy Scout Troop 162 helped the Conservation Commission clear trees from the Dustin Farm. A photo of the Boy Scouts at the site is featured in the 2021 Winter North Hampton Community News edition.

Correspondence:

January 7, 2021 Letter from The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests: The letter served as the annual communication regarding the Town's Boies Wildlife Preserves, the deed restricted property upon which the Forests Society provides easement administration and holds the conservation easement on the property. The letter reminded the Commission to review the property's conservation easement prior to planning any new management activities. The Forest Society holds conservation easements and deed restrictions on over 750 properties protecting more than 130,000 acres in New Hampshire.

There being no further topics to discuss, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Fran Arcidiacono, to adjourn the meeting.*** Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion carried. The televised public session concluded at 8:00 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.