

Minutes for Non-Public Meeting of the Conservation Commission

Non-public Session Called to Order at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Date: November 28, 2017, Members Present: Laurie Etela, Lisa Wilson, Shep Kroner, Andy Vorkink, Kathy Grant, Phil Thayer, Allyson Ryder, *Alternate Member*

RSA 91-A:3, II(d) *Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.* **Phil Thayer** motioned to enter into nonpublic session, seconded Kathy Grant.

Roll call vote to enter nonpublic session: **Kathy Grant, Yes; Phil Thayer, Yes; Andy Vorkink, Yes; Allyson Ryder, Yes; Lauri Etela, Yes; Lisa Wilson, Yes.** (Shep Kroner arrived after the roll call vote.) **The Motion Passed.**

Members of the Public Present: Phil Wilson, Tim Harned

The Commission entered into Non-Public Session at approximately 7:03 p.m.

In early November Selectman Larry Miller contacted Phil Wilson about the possible donation of land for the purpose of conservation. The parcel is currently owned by Mrs. Wendy Higginson.

On November 27, 2017, Mrs. Higginson called Phil Wilson to express her wish to **donate** to the Town of North Hampton approximately 24 acres to conserve (Map 6, Lot 080) with an assessed/appraised value of \$73,200. Mrs. Higginson wishes to close on the donation of the property before December 31, 2017.

The Chair of the Conservation Commission asked Phil Wilson, *North Hampton Forever Co-Chair*, to present to the Commission the details of the possible donation, and to offer to facilitate the donation with the help of Tim Harned, *North Hampton Forever, Co-Chair*. Both Phil Wilson and Tim Harned stressed that they were not in attendance as Co-Chairs of *North Hampton Forever*, but as private citizens willing to offer their expertise and services to the Commission as well as facilitate the donation of the land to the Town.

Phil Wilson had explained that North Hampton Forever had listed this property as a possible parcel of land to acquire when the NHF subcommittee was first established in 2001. This beautiful parcel, which is comprised of uplands and wetlands, has significant ecological value because Oliver Brook runs through a portion of the land, provides for wildlife habitat, serves as surge tank for sea-level rise and major storm events, helps protect Little River from further pollution, and abuts conservation land which is suitable for hiking and passive recreation.

Phil Wilson reiterated that Mrs. Higginson said that she will only donate the land under the condition that it is conserved.

After discussion, **Andy Vorkink** motioned that the Conservation Commission vote that on the basis of its wetlands and natural properties to proceed with negotiations to acquire by donation, Map 6, Lot 080, to authorize Phil Wilson and Tim Harned to contact Michele Peckham to prepare a draft legal document consistent with recent conservation provisions, negotiate with the owner, and revert to the Commission the results including authorization to commit funds for legal fees up to \$5000, and for closing costs up to \$5000. **The motion was seconded by Phil Thayer. The Motion Passed** by a roll call vote: Lisa Wilson, Yes; Andy Vorkink, Yes; Shep Kroner, Yes; Kathy Grant, Yes; Phil Thayer, Yes; Lauri Etela, Yes; Allyson Ryder, Yes.

Andy Vorkink motioned to leave nonpublic session and return to public session, the motion was seconded by **Shep Kroner** at approximately 8:00 p.m. **The Motion Passed** by a roll call vote: Lisa Wilson, Yes; Andy Vorkink, Yes; Shep Kroner, Yes; Kathy Grant, Yes; Phil Thayer, Yes; Lauri Etela, Yes; Allyson Ryder, Yes.

Public session reconvened at approximately 8:00 p.m.

A Motion was made to seal these minutes by Andy Vorkink, seconded by Phil Thayer, because “it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective.” **Roll Call Vote to Seal the Minutes:** Lisa Wilson, Yes; Andy Vorkink, Yes; Shep Kroner, Yes; Kathy Grant, Yes; Phil Thayer, Yes; Lauri Etela, Yes; Allyson Ryder, Yes. **Motion Passed**

These sealed minutes were recorded by Lisa J. Wilson, Chair, North Hampton Conservation Commission.

Notes:

(The Conservation Commission voted to unseal the minutes of the November 28, 2017 and December 7, 2017 non-public sessions at the February 13, 2018 meeting. On January 22, 2018, the Select Board accepted the donation of the 24 acres of conservation land located off Mill Road, which were recorded at the *Rockingham County Registry of Deeds*, Book 5890, Page 2192).