

DRAFT

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Administrative:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant, Vice Chair, Phil Thayer, Lauri Etela, Frank Arcidiacono and Audrey Prior.

Members of the Public: Luke Hurley, *Gove Environmental Services Inc.*; Marcy Royce, Andy Tilberry.

Approval of October 8, 2019 Draft Minutes: After some discussion, ***a motion was made by, Lauri Etela duly seconded by Audrey Prior to approve the minutes as corrected.*** The motion carried.

New Business:

NHDES Wetlands Bureau Dredge and Fill Application: Larry and Barbara Royal, Trustees, 94 Esker Road, Hampton, NH 03842 have granted permission to Marcy Royce to pursue permitting for a wetlands crossing and a driveway permit from the State of New Hampshire at their property located at Tax Map 9, Lot 21, Route 111, North Hampton, NH. The proposed project is for a single-family home. Development will include three wetland crossings for a road to access the proposed home to include approximately 3,424 square feet of permanent impacts and 1,276 square feet of temporary impacts. ***After some discussion, a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to authorize the Chair, Lisa Wilson, to draft a letter to the DES with a copy sent to the Planning Board stating that the Conservation Commission has reviewed the application and has no objections to the application provided that:***

- 1. All work is to be conducted in accordance with NHDES guidelines and requirements to protect the wetlands;***
- 2. A certified survey of the property verifies the location of the wetlands and wetlands disturbances and;***
- 3. A certified survey verifies a contiguous acre of uplands to allow for a dwelling on the site that meets all required wetlands buffer and septic system setbacks that comply with North Hampton's Zoning Ordinance.*** The motion carried.

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI): The Commission discussed the outcome of the October 10, 2019 meeting to review objectives for the NRI with Amanda Stone, *State Specialist, Natural Resources & Land Conservation, UNH Cooperative Extension* and Jenn Rowden, *Rockingham Planning Commission, Senior Planner.*

The NRI will form the basis for a conservation plan and will help supplement the *Coastal Hazard and Adaptation Chapter* of the *Master Plan*. North Hampton has made significant strides with the *NHF* initiative, but future conservation plans may address areas such as flood preventions measures, identification and removal of invasive plants, forest management, agricultural soils, protection of wildlife corridors, and drinking water protection.

Jenn Rowden would like to complete the project within the next six months and hopes to have a draft narrative completed by December to be reviewed by the Commission at the January, 23 Conservation Commission meeting to be followed by scheduling a joint meeting with the Planning Board. Commissioners are asked to take or share any photographs of the Town's natural resources or

areas that are in need of protection.

The Commission discussed its top conservation priorities of protecting the towns water resources to include the drinking water and aquifer protection areas, watersheds, and wetlands. The Commission felt that the protection of the Town's water resources will further the goal of protecting conservation land to include wildlife habitats, farm lands and forestland.

The Commission also expressed an interest in identifying invasive species to help eradicate them and better educate the public about preventing their proliferation.

One of the primary goals of the NRI is to include **Water Resources Maps** that include ground waters, surface waters, drinking water and wetlands maps to be shared with all the boards and commissions in Town as easy-to use references for future planning and projects.

Septic System Data Base/604 b Water Quality Grant: The Commission recommends funding the septic system database/water quality project after having received notification that the project will not be awarded a NHDES 604 b Grant in 2020. The Conservation Commission has \$10,000 budgeted under water quality and sampling. The Commission discussed how this project will provide the Town with a good basis for further water quality sampling within the Winnicut and Little River Watersheds to help safeguard the Town's water resources. The database will serve as an educational tool to encourage residents to inspect, maintain, and pump-out their septic systems and help assess potential vulnerability of specific septic systems in the wake of extreme storm events and sea level rise. ***A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Lauri Etela, to authorize an expenditure up to \$9,950 to proceed with Septic System Data Base project and to consult with the Select Board to determine whether the Select Board also needs to approve the expenditure.***

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: Andy will report at the December meeting. The Chair will request that the Select Board hold a Public Hearing to consider placing protective covenants on the wetlands properties, town-owned conservation lands, and tax acquired properties that have been discussed during the October 8, 2019 meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Trail maintenance Update: Philip Thayer reported that many trees are down along the trails and need to be cleaned up due to the recent high winds. He and two volunteers will plan to clear the trails and will plan to replace signage at the Booker Farm off Buckskin Lane.

Conservation Signage: In addition to ordering custom signage for the Old Road Farm easement and for the Booker Farm property boundary that abuts neighboring homes, permanent signage is needed for the Booker Farm entrance and Little River Conservancy entrance. Lisa recommended purchasing the bronze-colored signs of the same materials and design that were custom made for the Corbett and Old Road Farm conservation properties. The company that fabricated the signs is still in business and will provide an estimate. Phil Thayer also discussed the placing 4 by 6 inch signs on 4 by 4 posts to recognize the Eagle Scouts and their respective projects.

Philbrick Pond Salt Marsh Drainage Update: Frank Arcidiacono reported about the October 28, 2019 meeting at the Town Hall followed by a site meeting at Philbrick Pond during the King Tide. Lisa Wilson and Kathy Grant were present along with thirteen experts from various organizations including DES, UNH and representatives from NH Fish and Game. Discussion included the history of the marsh, how restoration efforts will improve the health of the marsh, the need to physically map the marsh to include aerial mapping, and the need to obtain landowner and abutter approvals. Frank stressed the importance of formulating a specific plan before contacting the homeowners.

The cobble weir replacement with a concrete slab was identified as a near term solution to improve salt marsh drainage at low tide increasing the tidal range from 5" to 16" within the marsh. Future marsh restoration might include runneling and ditch remediation to help correct pooling. It was suggested that it might make sense to take a wait and see approach to see the impact of the cobble weir project before developing a more comprehensive marsh restoration plan, which would also include plans to control invasive plants. Next steps will include the evaluation of a final report of the outcome of the October 28 meeting and site walk.

Correspondence:

- A. Letter dated October 24, 2019 to Ms. Jennifer Rowden:** Jenn Rowden notified the Commission that the 604 b grant application was not selected to proceed to the next phase.
- B. Letter dated October 9, 2019 from NHDES to the North Hampton Conservation Commission:** Notification that the application for 3 Ocean Boulevard was found to be administratively complete (Resources Management File # 2018-02284. Tax Map 1, Lot 1-12). The letter stated that the complete application is not a permit or authorization to begin work. The Commission has not received any new information regarding the status of the application.
- C. Letter dated October 3, 2019 from NH Association of Conservation Commissions:** The letter outlined the goals of the Association and included an invoice for annual dues. The Commission received an invoice for \$375.00. ***A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to authorize the Conservation Commission to renew its membership in the NHACC for \$375.00.*** The motion passed.
- D. Email dated October 11, 2019 from Forest Society:** Correspondence discussing the outcome of monitoring the Boies conservation parcel. Ms. Stacey Powers, the monitoring agent, noted that "No Hunting" signs were posted on the conservation parcel. Despite the parcel being designated as a wildlife preserve, the deed restriction did not specifically prohibit hunting. However, Denis Kokernak, property abutter, and Chris Ganotis, former chair of the Conservation Commission, noted that the property has been posted for no hunting for many years; they also noted that Boieses' attorney drafted a legal document that was signed by former Commissioners years ago stating that hunting is not to be permitted on the property. It appears that the no hunting provision was not incorporated into the deed after the letter was drafted and signed by the Commission. Further research is necessary to see whether the town has on file any legal documents that might verify the donors' intent to amend the deed.
- E. Letter dated November 6, 2019 from NHDES:** Notification to Ms. Lauren Stone of approval with conditions for the 21 Chapel Road, Tax Map 5, Lot 24 wetlands permit application (NHDES Wetlands Bureau File 2019-02064). The NHDES approved the maintenance dredge of approximately 7,727 square feet within an existing man-made pond. The approval requires that 19 specific conditions are met to include that work should be conducted during no flow and dry conditions, proper siltation, erosion, and turbidity controls are to be in place prior to construction, a cofferdam must be constructed prior to beginning dredge work to isolate work area from surface waters, and discharge from dewatering or work areas shall be to sediment basins that are located in uplands, lined with hay bales or other acceptable trapping liners, and set back at least 50 feet from undisturbed vegetative buffers.

Other Business: Phil Thayer attended a recent Rail Trail meeting. He reported that funding is available for the entire project from Hampton to Portsmouth and that the project is to be completed in its entirety, not sections. Next steps include conducting *a Conservation Impact Study* to determine where the rail road ties have been dumped over the bank, the removal of the ties, and identification of water

crossings. Phil Thayer mentioned the Route 1 bridge crossing in North Hampton and the area near the Coakley Land Fill. Fences along the trail will likely need to be repaired to keep people and dogs away from the water to help prevent pollution from pet waste. The Rail Trail is expected to be completed in 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 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.”