

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
(Approved with Corrections)
August 13, 2019

Administrative:

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

Roll Call:

Members present: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant (Co-Chair), Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior and Phil Thayer.

Members of the Public: Christopher Albert, Certified Wetlands Scientist, Jones and Beach Engineers, Inc. and Lauren Stone, resident.

Approval of July 9, 2019 Draft Minutes

After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to approve the minutes.*** The motion carried.

New Business:

- A. NH DES Wetlands Application (Standard Wetlands Permit Application):** Jones and Beach Engineers, Inc. on behalf of the applicant, property owner Lauren Stone, to dredge an existing wetlands pond for the purposes of maintenance and improving its capacity located at 21 Chapel Road, North Hampton, NH; Tax Map 5, Lot 24 JBE Project no. 18214. Christopher Alberts presented the application proposing to dredge 7000 square feet. Mr. Albert noted that Mr. Eben Lewis, NHDES, will review the site. Dredged matter will be deposited off site. Mr. Albert noted the Chair's request to include the approximate location of the leach field for the septic system on Revised Existing Conditions Plan (C-1) of the application. The property's owner stated that the septic system is pumped-out regularly. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to authorize the Chair draft a letter to NHDES stating that the Conservation Commission has no objections to this project providing that all NHDES wetlands permit conditions for this application are met.*** The motion carried.
- B. 604 b Water Quality Grant Application for a Septic System Inventory and Database:** The Commission discussed the scope of work and revisions to the application. The Select Board, Planning Board, and Heritage Commission endorsed this project. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to authorize the Chair to send a letter of endorsement to Jenn Rowden, Senior Planner Rockingham Planning Commission, to express the Conservation Commission's support for the project and the grant application.*** The motion carried.

Old Business:

- A. Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update:** There is nothing to report at this time.
- B. Trail Maintenance – Eagle Scout Project Update:** Phil Thayer reported that he signed off on Christopher Holden's Eagle Scout project to clear a trail on the Dustin-Booker farm and that Mr. Holden did a great job clearing and marking the trail. Lisa Wilson suggested inviting Mr. Holden to a future meeting to present the completed project.

to the Commission and for the opportunity to thank Mr. Holden for completing the Eagle Scout project. The Commission very much appreciates all the work Mr. Holden accomplished. Phil Thayer noted that the former large white sign has faded and needs to be replaced. Lisa Wilson suggested replacing the sign with a smaller more discreet signage. The Commission also suggested the possibility of installing a split rail at the entrance of the Dustin-Booker conservation land to discourage the unauthorized use of ATV's should the problem reoccur. Phil Thayer submitted the invoice for the Community Garden mowing and discussed installing a split rail fence at the Dalton Town Forest to prevent cars from driving onto the trail.

- C. Water Quality Testing Update/NH DES July 30, 2019 Conference Call Update:** At the request of NHDES representatives Sally Soule and Rob Livingston, Lisa Wilson and Kathy Grant participated in a conference call with Mr. Livingston and Ms. Soule to discuss the outcome of water quality testing. Sally Soule and Rob Livingston said it is very difficult and sometimes impossible to pinpoint sources of nonpoint source pollution. They said that throughout the region bacteria levels are always higher following storm events and that the warning signs might be posted at all local beaches to warn swimmers that bacteria levels are typically higher following wet conditions and storm events. The DES did not think that further testing during wet conditions would provide any new information. The Commission discussed the June 10 tests results conducted by NHDES during low tide and dry conditions. The test results showed very low levels of naturally occurring bacteria. Mummichogs were abundant in the channels and river, an indication of clean water. Due to F.B. Environmental's findings of higher bacteria levels following wet conditions in September of 2018, the Commission discussed asking the Select Board to request that the Building Inspector visually inspect the leach fields at two locations within close proximity to Little River near the outlet to the ocean. ***A motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Lauri Etela, to authorize the Chair to draft a letter to the Select Board suggesting that the Building Inspector or another qualified professional visually inspect two leach fields within close proximity to Little River.*** The motion carried.
- D. Conservation Land Monitoring Updates:** The Commission discussed the SELT July 2019 monitoring findings for the Little River conservation parcel and noted that SELT suggested installing a sign at the entrance to the conservation land.
- E. SCA Corps Application Update (Trail to LRC):** Upon presenting the details of the application to the Select Board, the Board voted to support the Commission's applying to the SCA Corp's to assess the merits of the potential project to construct a trail to the LRC, which is a 24 acres parcel of conservation land. The Chair submitted the application via email on July 29, 2019. The Commission has not yet received a reply and noted that SCA Corps is in the process of completing 2019 projects. The Commission discussed potential camp sites for the crew and noted that camping may not be permitted on conservation land. In addition to privately owned parcels, a commissioner suggested that Town-owned land towards the rear and west of North Hampton School might be suitable.

Correspondence:

- A. Letter dated June 21, 2019 to the Conservation Commission from Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire** regarding Wellhead Protection Area Management inspections in North Hampton for this triennium. **Through NHDES database searches and windshield surveys, 48 NH Businesses fall under the RSA 45-C:7(II) definition of Potential Contaminant Source (PCS) were identified as being situated within Aquarion's**

Wellhead Protection Area. Of the 48 PCS businesses: 15 were determined to use or store less than household quantities of regulated substances; 9 businesses did not respond to outreach attempts, both by mail and phone; 1 business declined inspection; and 23 businesses were inspected by Geosphere, 22 of which were found to be in compliance. The North Hampton Fire Station was found to be out of compliance and has taken steps to install a new holding tank for discharge from an oil/water separator as part of upgrades planned for the station's parking area in the Summer of 2019.

- B. Email date August 2, 2019 sent to Eversource Energy from Eben Lewis, NHDES Wetlands Bureau File 2019-02381, ROW between North Road and Route 1, North Hampton Tax Map 17 ROW** regarding emergency work on line 3106 without NH DES authorization. The NHDES requires that Eversource submit a response by Oct. 1, 2019 to address the impacts to the wetlands.
- C. Email dated July 31, 2019 from Eben Lewis, NHDES to Mr. Salvatore Golisano, Rocky Guilano LLC, 225 Main Street Gloucester, MA 01930** regarding Wetlands Permit 2019-00653 to restore approximately 190 linear feet of a previously culverted intermittent stream for the redevelopment of an existing commercial lot located at 58 Lafayette road, North Hampton, NHG Tax Map 7, Lot 118. The proposed work was approved by NHDES. The NHDES approval letter stated that the proposal demonstrated the least adverse impact to areas and environments under NHDES jurisdiction and it complied with NHDES conditions for approval.
- D. Email dated July 30, 2019 to the Conservation Commission from Sally Soule, NHDES Coastal Watershed Supervisor** regarding Little River Resources to include the Rye Pump-out Regulation, septic inspection letter, guidance for health officers and, Rye litter control. The Conservation may wish to review these materials for discussion at a future meeting.

Other Business:

- A. Fall Newsletter Topics:** Provide a septic system overview from information gathered from EPA publications to include the benefits of septic systems, types of septic systems, how they work and why they must be properly maintained. The Winter newsletter might highlight the recently completed Eagle Scout Project at the Dustin-Booker Farm to include photos of the project.
- B.** Kathy Grant attended the Planning Board site walk for proposed development off Woodland Road and observed abandoned old vehicles on the property near wetlands.
- C. Signage:** Phil Thayer reported that the Conservation Commission has a variety of signs for posting conservation land. These signs were purchased about 10 years ago.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 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.”