

DRAFT
North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
8-10-21

Administrative:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom and Channel 22 from the Town Hall. The agenda was posted in Compliance with RSA 91-A requirements.

Roll Call:

Members present: Lisa Wilson, (Chair), Kathy Grant, (Co-Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Dave Cicalone, Audrey Prior and Phil Thayer. ***A motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to approve Andrew Vorkink's joining the meeting from a remote location.*** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Approval of July 13, 2021 Draft Minutes: After review of the July 13, 2021 minutes, ***a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to accept the minutes as written.*** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

New Business:

NH State Beach Advisory Discussion: Lisa Wilson attended the Select Board to discuss the recent beach advisories. The Select Board invited Andrea McQuaid, NH DES to address the North Hampton State Beach advisories due to higher bacterial counts following rainfall. The seacoast experienced the highest rainfall in 53 years in July. Ms. McQuaid noted that there were higher bacteria levels and up and down the NH coast and that NH DES tests two times per week. The building inspector planned to gather information about septic system maintenance and pumping in areas where contamination might be suspected such as the Fish Houses and/or Appledore Avenue. It was discussed that septic system dye tests might be able to determine possible sources of contamination.

NH DES experts also suspects that run-off following heavy rains collects contaminants, chemicals, pet and wildlife waste which runs into the river and ocean outlet at the testing sites which contributes to higher bacterial counts.

The area of the beach that is tested often frequently accumulates seaweed to due the configuration of the beach and tidal patterns. Water doesn't disperse as easily due in part to the location of the outlet of Little River and the rocky sandbar. Years ago residents diverted the primary outflow of Little River to the ocean away from its natural outlet located near Viano Island and Appledore Avenue to its present location, thus another reason why bacteria counts are often higher in the section of the beach in front of the parking lot. The Commission will continue to monitor the waterways and conduct water quality tests where contamination is suspected.

Fall Newsletter Topic: Discuss why it is important to better educate the public about the importance of maintaining and inspecting systems. Properly maintained septic systems protect home investments.

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Old Business:

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: Andy Vorkink reported the Nordstrom conservation acquisition is almost finalized. NHDES approved the driveway permit for the building portion of the lot and the town will soon own the 39 northern acres that abut the Greenland town line following the final action of the Planning Board for approval of the subdivision. The subdivision created a 2.5-acre buildable lot which was separated from the 39 acres of conservation land located on Map 17, Lot 71.

Andy also also reported that it has come to the attention of the Commission that there appears be a structure or Airbnb cabin on conservation land in possible violation of the terms of the conservation easement.

Andy reminded the Commission for the benefit of its newer members that about five years ago the Commission adopted a standing resolution that if the Commission is notified of a possible violation, either the Chair, or Conservation Easement Subcommittee Chair, is authorized to take necessary action without the need to wait for the next Conservation Commission meeting for discussion and approval.

Trail Maintenance Update: Phil Thayer reported that Mark Lariviere will be mowing the Community Garden once the ground dries.

Conservation Signage: The Commission discussed the need to order at least 400 custom signs to include to no hunting on conservation land per deed restrictions, conservation boundary signs, and North Hampton conservation land signs, which are needed by September 15, when hunting season begins. Following discussion, ***a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Andrew Vorkink, to authorize an expenditure up to \$1000 for conservation signs.*** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried. The Chair will send an example of the signs to conservation members prior to placing the order.

Oliver Brook Trail Update: The NHDES notified the Town that the Statutory Permit (SPN) for Oliver Brook Trail is administratively complete. The Commission has not heard whether the Town will receive additional funding from the Home Depot Foundation. Zachary Colatch will soon provide a list of materials to be ordered by mid-September. Lisa will also need to arrange for a porta-potty for the crew at the campsite for a cost of approximately \$400. 80 % of the cost to build the trail will be reimbursed from the NH Bureau of Trail Grant program following completion of the project. ***A motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Dave Ciccalone, to authorize Lisa Wilson, Project Administrator, to expend up to \$10,000.00 for materials for the Oliver Brook Trail.***

The Commission discussed the need to approve the final trail route and would like to see a map of the route before the work begins. Lisa will contact Zach to ask him to

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provide the requested information. Once the work is set to begin, Lisa will send out a spreadsheet/calendar to Commissioners to select days and times to visit the trail and to observe the SCA Ameri-Corps crew. The work is scheduled to begin on September 15 and should be completed by October 8. The chair will determine whether the land must be posted within 10 feet of property lines.

Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage Update: Frank Arcidiacono reported that on July 21, 2021 final approval of the wetlands permit was approved by the DES. The project to replace the cobble weir with a concrete slab to improve the tidal flow and the health of the marsh must be completed between November 15 and March 15, 2022 and that the Nature Conservancy extended the time frame in which its grant funds were to be administered to accommodate the revised completion dates. The bidding process to contract for the work is scheduled for September 15, 2021.

Septic System Database Update: The Rockingham Planning Commission has requested a time only extension for the Septic System Inventory Project. ***A motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement letter which extends the project to December 31, 2021.*** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Robert Pruyne is in the process of updating the tax and conservation maps. Andrew Vorkink will follow up with Rob to check up on the status of the map updates.

Other Business: None

There being no other business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Dave Ciccalone, to adjourn the meeting.*** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 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.”