

**Draft
North Hampton Conservation
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021**

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). **Members present via Zoom:** Kathy Grant, (Co-Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Dave Ciccilone, Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior Andrew Vorkink. **Members of the public:** Josh Bouchard.

Approval of April 13, 2021 Draft Minutes: Correction: Add to the minutes that Phil Thayer was elected as the Trail Maintenance Subcommittee Chair. After review of the April 13, 2021 minutes, *a motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to accept the minutes as amended.* The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

New Business: NH DES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit Application, Map, Tax Map 5, Lot 10, 88 Ocean Boulevard, North Hampton, NH. Josh Bouchard, CMA Engineers, on behalf of the Town of North Hampton, 236 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton, NH presented plans to remove the stone weir, replace the stone weir with a concrete slab and regrade the stream channel to create a consistent stream bed evaluation.

The project will include permanent wetlands impacts to install the plugs in the culverts that are required to isolate the stream between Route 1-A and trolley berm, to install the concrete slab, stone apron and stone slope protection and regrade the stream channel. Scheduled to be completed this fall, the work will help improve the overall health of the marsh. The project has been endorsed by the Conservation Commission and Select Board. *After some discussion a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to authorize the Chair to sign the NH DES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Application.* The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Town of North Hampton Conservation Commission Abutter Notification: NHDES Wetlands Permit Application, North Road, North Hampton, NH 03862, Tax Map 17, Lot 71. On behalf of the Applicant and property owner, Walter E. Nordstrom, 14027 Barnett Place, Fishers, IN 46038, TF Moran, Inc. has submitted plans for a new driveway to access a residential lot. The project proposes to impact approximately 4,920 square feet of wetlands. The proposed impacts will occur predominately within the footprint of an existing woods road. The remaining 39 acres of this subdivision are being placed within a Conservation Easement. This project has been approved by the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Select Board. *A motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Lauri Etela, to authorize the Chair to send a letter in support of this project.* The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Conservation Sub-Division Easement Update: On May 7, 2021 members of the Conservation Conducted a site walk with Zachary Colatch, SCA Corps Coordinator, to review the proposed Oliver Brook Trail route to the Little River Conservancy. Andy Vorkink, Phil Thayer, Lisa Wilson, and a member of the public who resides near the trail were present. The Commissioners and Zachary concluded that one segment of the trail should be located in the vicinity of a natural

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stone crossing over Oliver brook eliminating the need for a 10-foot bridge over the brook on another segment of the trail. The existing granite stones appear to be adequate and no wooden bridge is needed to get to Higginson property.

Zach will provide the Commission with the proposed trail route for review and final approval by the Commission. The Select Board voted to accept the NH Bureau of Trail (NH BOT) grant funds during the April 26, 2021 Public Hearing and both the SCA Contract and the NH BOT agreement have been signed and delivered to the respective organizations. Construction of the trail is scheduled to begin in September 2021.

Trail Maintenance Update: Nothing to report.

Conservation Signage: Oliver Brook Trail markers need to be ordered. It also was mentioned to consider pre-ordering supplies due to the rising cost of lumber.

Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage Update: Peter Steckler, TNC, outlined next steps to include submitting the Wetlands Permit on May 12, and to expect a 30-day wetland permit review period. The project team discussed that the proposed contract will be a time-based contract which will not include an option not to exceed a certain amount to avoid undue delays. CMA Engineers will begin the bidding process as soon as the wetlands permit is issued.

Other Business:

Conditional Use Permit to Construct a Driveway within the Wetlands District on Exeter Road.

An application has been submitted to the Planning Board for approval of a wetlands crossing Conditional Use Permit for a driveway onto the Map 10, Lot-2 Exeter Road property. In 2014 the Commission reviewed an Expedited Wetlands Permit application for the driveway and approved an expedited review of the application noting that the Commission recommended a culvert at the entrance of the driveway and the construction of a pervious driveway. The Commission has been asked to forward any comments to the Planning Board prior to the June 1, 2021 meeting.

The applicant noted that while the plans depict 1,279 square feet of proposed permanent buffer impacts, there will also be 2,080 square feet of temporary buffer impacts which may involve filling and grading. The applicant also stated that after construction the site shall be restored as nearly as practicable to its original grade and condition. ***A motion was made by Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to authorize the chair to draft a letter to Planning Board which reaffirms the 2014 recommendations of the Conservation Commission to install a culvert at the entrance of the driveway and to construct a pervious driveway provided the proposed plans comply with NH DES requirements and any Planning Board conditions for approval.***

The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Correspondence:

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) grant funds: Mike Tully forwarded to the Conservation Commission correspondence from the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) to notify towns of the availability of Aquatic Resource Mitigation grant funds. The RPC suggested that certain culvert projects in North Hampton meet some or all of the criteria for these grants. Pre-

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application materials are due by May 28, 2021. *The Winnicut River Watershed Restoration and Management Plan* also provides valuable information for determining potential culvert projects

in North Hampton. Cost estimates and priority ratings are included in the management plan analysis. Lisa Wilson will share the findings with the Select Board for consideration, if not for this year, perhaps for Town approved projects in the future.

Logging at North Hampton School: Lisa Wilson learned loggers have received the necessary permits to cut down the trees, the Select Board will have the opportunity to approve the final plan on the town-owned land. Lisa received permission from the Town to request a New Hampshire Heritage Bureau report about rare wildlife or habitat spotted on the acreage. Once the request is submitted, it can take a few weeks for a response from the bureau.

Land Use Summit Topics: Topics will include the work of the Commission to include updates about the Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Project and the construction of the Oliver Brook Trail. The Land Use Summit will be held on June 24, 2021.

Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter: Newsletter submissions are due by May 24; the mailing date is approximately June 22.

Correspondence: Letter Dated May 3, 2021 from SELT notifying the Commission that the SELT will plan to monitor Forest Hills Farm and the Little River Conservation land.

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to adjourn the meeting.*** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motioned carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 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.”