

**DRAFT**  
North Hampton Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2020

**Administrative:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and Channel 22 from the Town Hall.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant (Co-Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior, Philip Thayer, Andrew Vorkink; Alternate Member: David Ciccalone. Members of the public were Ben Auger, Jase Gregoire, and Stephen Haight.

**Approval of May 12, 2020 Draft Minutes**

After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Lauri Etela, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to approve the minutes.*** Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried with Frank Arcidiacono abstaining.

**Approval of the May 19, 2020 Draft Minutes**

***A motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to approve the minutes with one correction.*** (The meeting was called to order at noon.) Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried with Lauri Etela and Lisa Wilson abstaining.

**New Business:**

**NH DES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit Application: 8 Dancer's Image Lane, Tax Map 6, Lot 2-2, North Hampton, NH:** On behalf of Michael A. Falzone and Laura J. Harper, Civil Works New England submitted plans to construct a 152.5 S.F. pool and an 822.S.F. pool deck. Ben Auger, General Contractor, spoke on behalf of the applicants. Total feet of disturbance is within the wetland jurisdiction totaling 1,735 square feet. Mr. Falzone's doctor recommended the pool for therapeutic swimming exercise due to a health issue. The pool deck will have 3 sets of stairs providing access to the existing deck and lawn; a landscaped area is proposed along the east and south side of the pool deck. The project is located in the 100' tidal buffer zone and partially in the natural woodland buffer. The project does not impact the FEMA buffer zone AE (elev.=9'0) or the freshwater wetlands located on-site; a 50' waterfront buffer is under wetland jurisdiction. The Town of North Hampton tax card indicates the primary structure was built prior to 1999. Mr. Auger reported that a soil scientist determined setbacks, landscaping and decking where two conservation easements run along the river. The deed for this property refers to a plan from July of 1996 by Peter Fuller. The applicant will apply for a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board following the Conservation Commission's review. Andrew Vorkink and Kathy Grant requested that the EOW-FWW should be referred to as conservation area. ***A motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to authorize the Vice Chair to sign the Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit Application.*** Lisa Wilson called the Roll Call Vote and the motion carried with Lisa Wilson abstaining. (Copies will be dropped off for Kathy Grant to sign.)

**Election Conservation Commission Chair and Vice Chair:** Lisa Wilson thanked the Select Board for the recent appointments to the Conservation Commission. ***A motion was made by Kathy Grant duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to nominate Lisa Wilson as Chair. A motion was then***

**made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono to nominate Kathy Grant as Vice Chair.** A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Conservation Commission Easement Subcommittee Chair: A motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to nominate Andrew Vorkink as Conservation Easement Subcommittee Chair.** Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Conservation Commission Trail Maintenance Subcommittee Chair: A motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Laurie Etela, to nominate Phil Thayer as Trail Maintenance Subcommittee Chair.** Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**SCA NH Corps NH Trail Project:** The Commission discussed potential revisions to the plan to construct a trail to the Little River Conservancy to include the opportunity for the Commission to apply for a federal Recreational Trail Program grant by June 30, 2020 that is administered by the NH Bureau of Trails. Commissioners conducted a site walk on Woodland Road for the proposed Oliver Brook Trail on May 19, 2020. (Kathy Grant revisited the site that weekend to walk the trail again and to photograph the wetlands crossings that are difficult to cross during wetter periods.) Six commissioners attended the May 19 meetng; Aimee Margolis joined at the conclusion of the site walk. (Zachary Colatch visited the site a second time in April of 2020 to refine the plans.).

The wetland areas during the May sitewalk were much wetter and the ground was very mucky, unlike the ground in February. During the May sitewalk Commissioners located an alternative Oliver Brook crossing where only a 10 feet-long bridge might be needed rather than the proposed 21-feet-long bridge. The Commission discussed the need to construct a 50-foot-long boardwalk across the wettest section of the trail and the need to construct approximately 450-feet of bog bridges for the other wetlands crossings, which would require the SCA Corps to complete the work in two 10-day hitches rather than one-hitch as originally proposed.

The Chair discussed the more extensive proposed project and the grant program with Select Board during the June 8, 2020. The Select Board voted unanimously to support the grant application, voted to appoint Lisa Wilson as the project administrator pending the approval of the Commission to apply for the grant, and to draft a letter in support of the project. **A motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Lauri Etela, to authorize the Chair to apply for the grant and take the steps necessary to meet the June 30, 2020 deadline.** Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion unanimously carried.

**A motion was made by Laurie Etela, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to nominate the Chair to be the Project Administrator for the Recreational Trail Program grant.** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion unanimously carried.

**A motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Andrew Vorkink, to indicate that the Commission is interested in proceeding with the project including two hitches at this time pending approval of the grant, ground work investigations and further proposals by SCA NH Corps.** The Chair called a roll call vote and the motion unanimously carried.

The Chair suggested that Lauri Etela be in charge of materials procurement, that Kathy Grant, and David Ciccalone work with Zack to provide GPS Coordinates, and that the remaining commissioners rotate site visits to inspect the project while the work is being completed.

**Old Business:**

**Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update**

Andrew Vorkink reported that there was nothing new to report.

**Trail Maintenance Update:** Phil Thayer has walked the Corbett and Dustin trails recently and cleaned them up. Trail markers need to be put up on Corbett property and Phil is working with the Boy Scouts to clear brush on the Dustin and Corbett trails. The scouts will photograph areas that need to be cut down with a chain saw and Phil will return to the site to do the clearing.

**Conservation Signage:** Lisa Wilson sent photos to Commissioners of the proposed new Dustin Booker Farm sign made of a heavy grade aluminum. Future maintenance free kiosk-type informational signage will cost approximately \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00 per sign. Kathy Grant and Phil Thayer will put up some small signs on the edge of the Dustin property. The Forest Hills Farm /Sagamore Trail, formerly the purple trail, needs more trail markers. Phil Thayer will send Lisa Wilson some photos of signs that read "This Is Not Conservation Land".

**Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage Update:** Frank Arcidiacono reported that a meeting was held via Zoom on June 5, 2020 and discussed potential funding to include a private family foundation grant, which might serve as matching funds for a potential Coastal Resilience grant, which is to be used for design and planning only. Other funds might be derived from NH Fish and Wildlife grant to protect rare birds. There was discussion whether at some point the Conservation Commission might be asked to provide funds to support this project. It was noted that some of the land that is privately held has been placed in conservation and that the Commission may want to pursue placing parcels in conservation where the work is proposed to take place.

**Natural Resources Inventory Update.** Lisa Wilson corresponded with Amanda Stone who agreed to extend the deadline for revisions and review of the NRI to the fall due to the cancellation of meetings that resulted because of Covid-19 pandemic.

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to adjourn the meeting.*** The called a roll call vote and the motion unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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."***