

DRAFT

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 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, David Ciccalone, Lauri Etela, Audrey Prior and Philip Thayer.

Approval of June 9, 2020 Draft Minutes: After some discussion, *a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to approve the minutes.* Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried.

New Business:

Rockingham Count Conservation District: Tracy Degnan, Senior Project Manager, RCCD, provided a plan of the Brown Conservation easement located in Rye, NH. The Commission has been asked to consider drafting a letter to the North Hampton Planning Board in support of the project in advance of a Planning Board review of the subdivision plan for the conservation land. Approximately 18 acres located in North Hampton on map 16, lots 6, 7, 8. A smaller residential lot for Patricia Brown, where the existing structures are located is the proposed subdivision that sits in its entirety in the Town of Rye. There are no proposed changes to the lot.

The remaining parcel to be subdivided includes the approximately 18 acres to be permanently conserved land in North Hampton and is not buildable. To facilitate the transaction, the Rye Conservation Commission and the RCCD have requested several waivers from the North Hampton Subdivision Regulations and would like a letter in support of the project from the North Hampton Conservation Commission to the Planning Board in support of the waivers and the project. Sally King, Chair of the Rye Conservation Commission and Tracy Degnan, RCCD confirmed that a conservation easement has been placed the approximately 78 acres parcel.

After some discussion a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Kathy Grant to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Planning Board in support of the waivers from the North Hampton Subdivision Regulations conservation easement pending verification of the conservation easement holder, monitoring agent, and owner of the conservation land. The letter will express the importance of this conservation land which abuts the conservation land that comprises Garland Farm, Independence Farm, and the Rand Memorial Forest for the protection of local and regional water resources. Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Philbrick Pond Project: Route 1A Cobble Weir Replacement Frank Arcidiacono reported on the status of the Philbrick Pond project. The Nature Conservancy Received a \$40,000 donation from a private family foundation to help fund the project. The grant funds must be spent within a 12 months period and one of the property owners granted permission with the condition that the work is not to take place between Memorial Day and September 30, 2021.

Frank Arcidiacono discussed the following next steps to include receiving the final temporary access easement documents from land owners, submission of wetlands and DOT permit applications followed by the bidding process.

The Commission discussed providing additional funding if necessary for the project, estimated to cost approximately \$60,000. Other funding sources include the Moose Plate Grant Program and/or a NH DES 319 grant provided that the terms and conditions of the landowners, NH DOT, and grantors can be met to meet the September 2020 grant application deadlines. Frank discussed the timing of these deadlines to best comply with the terms of the \$40,000 grant as well as the terms of the landowners, the Moose Plate grant program, and the NH DES 319 grant guidelines.

The Commission appreciates and extends its gratitude to Frank Arcidiacono for his work during the past two years on this project which will help improve the health of the marsh.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono to support replacement of the Route 1A cobble weir with a concrete slab pending approval by the Select Board to authorize and administer the project. The Commission will appropriate \$10,000 of Conservation Commission funds if needed to allow the Town to begin the bidding process. Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Land Use Summit: Suggested topics to be discussed are current and pending projects to include the Natural Resource Inventory, Septic System Data Base and Inventory, Coastal Resilience Initiatives, as well as an update on work to complete the Oliver Brook Trail and progress towards the Philbrick pond project.

Coastal NH Floodplain Mapping Project: Lisa Wilson emailed Commissioners a FEMA flood map from the Office of Strategic Initiatives for review and comments. More maps are available on the following Coastal Mapping Webpage:

<https://www.nh.gov/osi/planning/programs/fmp/coastal-mapping-project/index.htm>

FY22 Budget Request: Budget requests are due by September 7, 2020. The Commission will request \$12,000, the same amount of funds that has been allocated to the Commission during the past few years to help protect water resources. Kathy Grant discussed finding economical ways to continue water testing and perhaps hiring a summer intern to help monitor conservation land.

Discuss Topics for the Fall Community Newsletter: The Fall 2020 Community newsletter submission deadline is **September 14, 2020**. Lisa Wilson suggested topics to include the recent work of the Commission and future goals. Commissioners were asked to submit any ideas for the newsletter by September 7 for possible submission.

Old Business:

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: The Chair received correspondence from SELT about the possibility that an invisible fence from an abutting property may be located on the Forest Hills Farm conservation land. Kathy Grant will investigate and determine whether further action is needed.

Trail Maintenance Update: Phil Thayer reported that the Community Garden needs to be mowed and Marc Lariviere agreed to mow the field for \$400, the same fee for mowing in 2019. ***A motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to authorize an expenditure up to \$400.00 for mowing the Community Garden.*** Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried.

Conservation Signage: Lisa Wilson has not ordered the sign for Dustin Booker Farm pending the outcome NH BOT grant to save the Commission shipping and handling fees if more than one sign is ordered to include a Kiosk-type/information outdoor signage.

National Resource Inventory Update: Work on this project is expected to resume in the fall. Commissioners were asked to forward any comments, photos, or revisions for discussion.

Correspondence:

Email dated August 5, 2020 from Eben Lewis, NHDES and Jase Gregoire, Engineer, Civil Works New England: Pertaining to 8 Dancer's Image Lane Wetland Permit Application. Civil Works of New England responded to the request from DES to provide new information to include a vulnerability assessment. The engineer determined that because the sea level rise is projected to be less than one foot over the next 25 years, no impact was found using the one-foot sea level rise scenario from the wetlands permit planning tool. The engineer noted that although the project is located within the 100-year floodplain, the proposed project location will not impact any area within the FIRM (Fema Flood Insurance Rate Map) 9' base flood elevation.

Email dated July 28, 2020 from Jay Diener, Chair, Hampton Conservation Commission and Rockingham County Conservation Commission Roundtable: The Commission received an outline of the new wetlands rules for review. The updated rules were developed over the last five years with a lot of input from various sources. The new rules are very explicit regarding what is expected from homeowners/developers, especially in regard to tidal resources and to think about the impacts of sea-level rise on future projects. Applicants for certain projects will be required to conduct vulnerability assessments.

Email dated July 17, 2020 from Southeast Land Trust (SELT): Monitoring report at Forest Hills Farm notified the Commission of a possible encroachment near a boundary by an abutter.

Email dated June 2, 2020 from NH DES: Notification of a possible violation of having placed fill within a jurisdictional wetland without a permit on property located on Tax Map 7, Lot 136 at 9 Hampshire Road. The DES had not yet reported back to the Commission.

Letter and Application packet dated June 5, 2020 from NH DOT: Routine Roadway Notification to replace a 12 inch diameter CMP culvert in kind on Route 1A at 11 Ocean Boulevard. The letter from the DOT noted the work was to be completed in July.

Other Business:

On June 29, 2020 Lisa Wilson delivered the completed NH BOT application to Concord for the proposed Oliver Brook Trail to the Little River Conservancy. Recipients of the grant will be notified in the fall.

The Tuesday, September 8, 2020 Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held in the Administrative Office conference room because voting will be taking place from the Town Hall. Page 4 of 4

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Lauri Etela, to adjourn the meeting.*** The Chair called the roll call vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 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.”