

DRAFT

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 and Andrew Vorkink; David Cicalone, Alternate Member.

Members of the Public: Sarah Large and Ralph Sanders, NH DOT.

Approval of August 11, 2020 Draft Minutes:

After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Lisa Wilson, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to approve the minutes with two corrections.*** Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried, with Andrew Vorkink abstaining.

New Business:

NH DES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit Application: The New Hampshire Department of Transportation proposed to replace a 12" Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) culvert with a 12" Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) and install a new precast concrete outlet headwall. The existing culvert is 150 feet long. The replacement culvert will be shortened to 50 feet in order to construct an accessible outlet for better maintenance which will minimize disturbance to the marsh. A 10' x 10' x 2' stone-lined catchment or apron, permanent impact, will be constructed at the outlet or the culvert. Erosion control measures will be placed prior to work starting. The work is designed to decrease flooding along Route 1A and on the nearby private properties.

Sarah Large and Ralph Sanders presented the application, a history of the current culvert, and noted that the Eben Lewis, NHDES has reviewed the proposal and is coordinating with the NH DOT to complete this project.

Sarah Large explained that the existing culvert is a closed drainage system from a single catch basin which does not collect water from a stream. She said it is better to keep drainage closer to the road and to the boundary of the wetlands for easier maintenance. Ralph Sanders mentioned that he will be on the site daily and invited members to stop by anytime. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Frank Arcidiacono, to authorize the Chair to sign the NH DES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit Application.*** Lisa Wilson called the roll call vote and the motion carried.

Agricultural Commission Request: Audrey Prior, Chair of the Agricultural Commission and Phil Thayer, Member Agricultural Commission, asked the Commission whether it would be possible for the Agricultural Commission to consider using the lower portion of the Community Garden for agricultural use and to possibly plant sunflowers. Use of the lower portion of the land would also eliminate the need to mow that area each year. It was discussed that CELCP/NOAA has placed restrictions on the use of that conservation land and that the organization should be contacted to determine whether the request is a permitted use. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to approve the expansion of the Community Garden to the lower field provided that the Commission receives***

confirmation that the proposed expanded use is approved by CELCP (Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.) Lisa Wilson called a roll call vote and the motion carried.

Old Business

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: The Town of Rye has conserved with the help of RCCD approximately 78 acres of which 18 acres are located in North Hampton (Map 16, Lots, 5, 6, 7, 8,). The conservation land is owned by the Town of Rye and the conservation easement is held by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Amanda Hollenbeck, Southeast Land Trust (SELT), monitored the conservation land located at 57 Woodland on September 4, 2020; the Commission has not yet received the monitoring report.

Trail Maintenance Update: Phil Thayer will request an invoice for mowing the Community Garden. He also noted that Oliver Brook was completely dry during a recent visit and that other low-lying wetlands areas were dry as well.

Conservation Signage: Lisa Wilson is researching companies which specialize in maintenance-free signage and informational signage. Frank Arcidiacono suggested the Commission refer to the "ALLTrails" mapping application to help members create trail guides. Frank referred Commissioners to a member of the Atkinson Conservation Commission who has successfully used the application and has offered to help/advise members of the Commission for help with mapping.

Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Project Update, Phase I, Replacement of Route 1A Cobble Weir: Frank Arcidiacono discussed the next steps for Phase I of the project which has been approved by the property owners. On August 26, 2020, Lisa Wilson, Frank Arcidiacono, and the project partners from The Nature Conservancy, NH DES Coastal Program, and CMA Engineers, met with Sally Soule, NHDES to discuss applying for a NH DES 319 grant for additional funding for the proposed work and possibly Phase II to further restore the salt marsh. Peter Steckler, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), is in the process of applying for a Moose Plate grant application which is due September 10 and also for a NH DES 319 grant application which is due on September 18. The Nature Conservancy has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from a private family foundation to help fund the replacement of the cobble weir and TNC has also recently been awarded a \$49,000 grant from the NH Coastal Program to design plans to broaden the Philbrick Pond Salt Marsh restoration efforts for Phase II restoration work. Any further restoration work is contingent upon having funding in place and additional approval from the property owners.

Oliver Brook Trail to Little River Conservancy Update: The Conservation Commission was notified by the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails on August 26, 2020 that it has been the recipient of a \$25,196 federally funded grant to construct the Oliver Brook Trail. The Commission is required to match 20% or \$6,299 of total estimated cost of \$31,495 which includes the 20 days of labor and equipment provided by the SCA Corps of NH. Work is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2021. The Town has notified the NH BOT that it will accept the grant and the NH BOT will next notify the Commission once it completes an historical review of the property.

When Phil Thayer walked the proposed trail during this drought period he also discovered a clogged culvert. It was discussed that if periodically maintained the improved water flow might improve down stream drainage. It was suggested that Phil and members of

the Commission walk the land with Zachary Colatch, SCA Corps NH s during drier conditions in November and then again in February to better determine the location of potential bog bridges.

Septic System Database and Natural Resource Inventory Update: Lisa Wilson communicated with Jenn Rowden today and reported that work will resume in October. The RPC is the process of building the septic database to list owner, parcel, septic system details to include the age and capacity of systems while also evaluating risk factors such as age, soils, and potential to flood.

Other Business: Kathy Grant shared information about upcoming September 10 and September 17 RCCD and NRCS Zoom meetings about grant opportunities to protect water supply lands and how to protect and manage species habitat. Phil Thayer said that he plans to attend the September 17 meeting about habitat protection.

Correspondence:

Letter dated August 5, 2020 from NH DES: Land Resources Management File # 2020-0124, 9 Hampshire Road, North Hampton: Tax Map 7, Lot 136 pertaining to inspection of the above referenced property. The NH DES The letter stated that the filling of the land was outside the boundary of the jurisdictional wetlands and that there were no violations.

The Commission reserves the right to conduct other conservation business that may arise in the:

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 a roll call vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 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.”