

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES, *draft*
Regular Meeting
August 10, 2011
City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex
41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Attendance:

Members present at the meeting included: Pam Hunt; Rick Chormann; Jan McClure; Tracey Boisvert; Chris Kane; and Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner, also attended the meeting.

The group appointed C. Kane as the Chairman pro-tem. The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

1. Minutes:

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

2. Discussion with the New Hampshire Audubon Society regarding the application of herbicide at Turkey Pond for the control of Eurasian Milfoil:

Laura Deming, of the New Hampshire Audubon Society, provided an overview of the invasive plant control practices for Variable milfoil at Turkey Pond. She explained that St. Paul's School files a permit annually to use an herbicide application to control the spread of milfoil. She said that there is a management plan for the Turkey Ponds on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) website and explained that plan includes both the herbicide application as well as other methods for removal. It is also clear that the purpose of the application is to maintain the boating lanes for St. Paul's School.

Ms. Deming said that the infestation includes approximately 67 acres and the herbicide application will control the milfoil for a season, but it comes back each year. She has asked St. Paul's and the DES to look into other techniques. The application is at a rate of 100 lbs per acre and is usually applied in late June. She said that the Audubon Society is concerned about the long term effects of the herbicide and has questioned what other organisms and aquatic plants are being killed and whether or not there are any negative health effects. The Audubon Society's summer camp brings children down to the pond and there is a state boat ramp off of Clinton Street. St. Paul's School owns the shoreline, but the pond is a public water body.

The Commission agreed that the pond was used frequently by the public even though the shoreline was privately owned. St. Paul's School does not own the pond. The Commission also agreed that St. Paul's School should look into a suction harvester or other mechanical methods of removal. The Commission asked if lowering the elevation of the pond was a possible treatment. Ms. Deming was not sure if that option has been explored.

Ms Deming explained that the Audubon Society would like a more open process during the review of the permit and suggested that notices be posted at the locations of public water

access and the NHDES should provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment. The Commission agreed to send a letter to the NHDES regarding the permit process and herbicide application. R. Hebert will email a link to the DES website and management plan.

3. Wetlands Bureau:

R. Hebert reviewed the correspondence from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

4. City Open Space:

R. Hebert said that the conservation easement for the Gully Hill Road agricultural land has been reviewed by the City's Legal Department and was forwarded to the Forest Society for their review and comment.

R. Hebert explained that the City Administration has asked the Conservation Commission to comment on the possible sale of a city-owned parcel off of Long Pond Road. The land is a 3.8 acre land-locked lot that the city acquired by tax deeding a few years ago. The Commission discussed the property and agreed that the land should be sold to one of the abutting properties with the condition that the lot is merged with the adjacent property.

P. Hunt moved to recommend that the City sell the lot to the abutting property owner without a conservation easement, with the condition that the parcel be merged with the existing house lot at 42 Long Pond Road. R. Chormann seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

R. Hebert provided a brief update on the easement stewardship internship. She said that Karen Rose has done an excellent job organizing the files and created digital files and field files of for all of the conservation easements. She has also monitored several properties and set up standard forms for the Commission to use in the future. She is planning to attend the September meeting to provide a brief overview of her work.

5. Planning Board/City Council referral:

a. Rezoning request of Paul and Rachael Angwin at 107 Commercial Street located between Commercial Street and Wattanummon's Brook, from Open Space Residential District (RO) to Institutional District (IS) – R. Hebert provided an overview of the rezoning request. The property is located on Commercial Street adjacent to the Delta Dental office complex. The proposal would rezone a small area of land along the property's road frontage.

R. Hebert explained that the parcel is currently being used as a single family residence and Dental would like to expand to this location. They would construct a new office building and small parking lot on the property and has also mentioned using the back fields as playing fields in the future.

R. Hebert explained that the entire property is in the Flood Hazard District and the Shoreland Overlay Protection District crosses through the property along the shores of Wattanummon's Brook. This stream is a major tributary to the Merrimack River and is also the outflow for Horseshoe Pond. Horseshoe Pond is an impaired water body. The property also abuts the Woodman parcel which is protected by conservation easement held by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

The Commission discussed the rezoning request and had concerns regarding the increase of impervious surface within the Flood Hazard District and along the shoreline of the brook. The group discussed whether or not the land within the Shoreland Overlay Protection District would also be rezoned from the RO District to the IS District. The Commission also discussed whether or not the property to the north would also request to be rezoned in the future and had concerns about pushing development further north towards the Open Space Residential District. R. Hebert said that this is the last residential property on Commercial Street and the land to the south is in the Opportunity Corridor Performance District and the land to the east is in the IS District. The property also has access to municipal water and sewer utilities along Commercial Street. The Commission asked whether or not it would be possible for Delta Dental to cross the railroad tracks.

R. Chormann moved to recommend against the rezoning request and Master Plan amendment. The land includes an important buffer to Watanummon's Brook and any increase in impervious surface beyond the existing residential use would be a detriment to the natural resources in the vicinity of the property, including the brook which is a tributary to the Merrimack River, the Merrimack River, Horseshoe Pond, the Aquifer Protection District, and the Shoreland Overlay Protection District. There is also no compelling reason to rezone the land. P. Hunt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Open Space (continued):

R. Hebert provided an update of the Maplewood Farm property. Five Rivers has been pursuing fund raising with a target of \$65,000. An anonymous donor has made a commitment of \$10,000 and the two of the adjacent property owners along Stickney Hill Road have also expressed interest in placing a conservation easement on their land. The Commission discussed the project and suggested holding an open space subcommittee meeting prior to the City Council public hearing in October to review the details of the project.

7. Other Business/Reports:

R. Hebert said that the timber sale showing will be next week on the Penacook Lake Gerry Hill compartment off of Long Pond Road. The work is scheduled to start this fall on bare ground, rather than frozen ground conditions to encourage higher quality forest regeneration.

R. Chormann said that the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee needs new members from Concord. The group agreed to look for qualified volunteers to represent the City.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:
Rebecca Hebert
Planner, Secretary pro-tem