CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES, draft
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2013 Room, City Hall
41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Attendance:

Members present at the meeting included: Jim Owers; Christopher Morgan; Tracey Boisvert; Karen Rose; Jan McClure; Rick Chormann; Pam Hunt; Kris Tardiff; Gloria McPherson, City Planner and Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner, attended the meeting.

C. Morgan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Minutes:

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 12, 2012, meeting and the minutes were unanimously accepted.

2. Wetlands Bureau:

R. Hebert said that the Commission has received a copy of a letter with NHDES comments regarding the Alteration of Terrain Permit approval notice for the new gas station/convenience store off of Whitney Road.

R. Hebert explained that Concord Power and Steam has resubmitted the 2008 wetlands dredge and fill permit for the installation of the pump station at the Hall Street treatment plant for the withdrawal of water from the Merrimack River. She said that the only changes to the permit were in response to comments from the NHDES. The group discussed the wetland impacts. The permanent impact is estimated at 5 sq. ft. and temporary impact at 25 sq. ft. for installation of the water intake structure. The Commission reviewed the comment letter that was sent to the NHDES in January 2009. The letter pointed out that the least impacting alternative would be to use the treated effluent from the City's sewerage treatment plant as the primary water source and asked if this alternative could be reviewed more thoroughly prior to considering permitting the withdrawal from the Merrimack River. The group asked staff to resubmit the original letter to the Wetlands Bureau.

3. <u>City Council/Planning Board Action</u>:

R. Hebert said that the City Council public hearing for the sale of the Triacca property will be on January 14, 2013. She said that in order to merge the property with Dimond Hill a life estate would need to be conveyed to Jane Presby. Equity Trust has asked if the City would do this at the time of conveyance. The group agreed that Equity Trust should convey the life estate to Jane at the closing rather than the City.

4. Open Space:

J. Owers moved to enter into a nonpublic session for the discussion of possible land acquisitions in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(d). C. Kane seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Following the discussion, the Commission moved to exit nonpublic session and seal the minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

R. Hebert said that she has received a request from Acidotic Racing Club to hold a trail running race partially on Winant Park. The course would include trails or road sections outside of Winant Park as well. The group discussed the proposal and had concerns with the use of "unofficial" trails at Winant Park. The road race might help to tramp them down and making the area more confusing for hikers. J. Owers asked if the event would need a Special Event Permit from the City. R. Hebert said that depending on the size of the event and course of the race, it may need a permit from the City. The group also thought it would be a good idea to the review the course map and parking, depending upon the size of the event the parking may not be sufficient at the Unitarian Church or Fisk Road. The event would also need to be approved by Five Rivers Conservation Trust and the city would need an insurance certificate and maybe a financial guarantee. The event would be a fundraiser for the Emerson preschool. R. Hebert said she would find out more information for next month's meeting.

5. Easement Stewardship/Monitoring:

The group discussed the easement monitoring project and suggested including money in next year's budget for hiring an intern to complete baseline documentation for the easements. R. Hebert said that she would include money for supplies and an intern.

- P. Hunt said that she and Chris Kane monitored the Manchester Sand and Gravel easement off of Route 106. The group reviewed the monitoring report and maps. Aside from a large lazy boy chair along the Soucook River, no violations were observed and the easement boundary was marked.
- R. Hebert reviewed the list of easements that need to be monitored. There were seventeen easements that need to be monitored, although four of the easement were acquired this year and would not need to be monitored right away.

6. Other Business:

The group discussed the Conservation Commission by-laws and agreed to review the document at the next meeting.

R. Hebert said that the next Trails Committee meeting is on January 23rd. She asked if a Commission member would be interested in attending the meeting. Based on last month's discussion she will be talking with the group about how they would like to be organized as the subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. The group suggested that the Committee decided how many appointed members they would like to have, who should be members and whether or not a background check should be required for volunteers.

R.Hebert said that the bids for the timber sales and vista clearing at Oak Hill and Russell Martin Park came back high. Ron Klemarczyk has suggested re-bidding the sale to see if the price would come down. The Commission agreed to re-bid the timber sale.

The group talked about trails that were in need of additional signs and blazes. It was suggested that additional signs be installed along the West End Farm Trail to keep hikers from getting lost. The Jim Hill Riverwalk and the Weir Road trails also need to be re-blazed. This might be a good Eagle Scout project. The Commission would need to coordinate with Boscawen for the blazing of the Weir Road trails.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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