

**CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2014
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall
41 Green Street, Concord, NH**

Attendance

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present at the meeting included: Frederick Chormann; Christopher Kane; Chair Christopher Morgan; Vice Chair James Owers; Pamela Hunt; Tracey Boisvert and Council Representative Jan McClure (7:25). Senior Planner Rebecca Hebert and Patricia Murray, Administrative Specialist from the Planning Division also attended the meeting.

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

1. Minutes

Ms. Boisvert moved to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting and Mr. Kane seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

2. Wetlands Bureau

- a. Correspondence – Ms. Hebert shared information from DES regarding a Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification and for New Hampshire Fish and Game property off of Hoit Road.
- b. Other business - none

3. Reports

- a. Trails Committee – Discussion about plowing trailhead parking lots ensued. Ms. Hebert reported that she has spoken with Chip Chesley who informed her that no policy exists regarding snow removal at trailheads and the parking lots would have to be added to the existing contract with the private firm that is responsible for plowing parking lots. The Commission believes this is a good idea to pursue and suggested starting with a few trails such as Swope, Winant and Oak Hill and agreed that the parking lots could be a low priority with minimal snow clearing. Ms. Hebert said this could be paid through the forestry trust and could possibly be added to the 2015 budget. She will get estimates from General Services.

Ms. Hebert informed the Commission of the moonlit hike at Carter Hill Orchard on Friday, January 17 at 6pm. This is organized by Five Rivers Conservation Trust and the Trails Committee and includes a hike and refreshments. Ms. Hebert said that the Trails Committee is coordinating the refreshments and if any member wanted to contribute to the food they could contact her.

Ms. Hebert informed the Commission that the new bridge at Rossvie Farm is complete. The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2014

- b. Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee – Mr. Chormann updated the Commission on a project with Central NH Regional Planning Commission to map land cover within the Merrimack River watershed.
- c. Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee - no update
- d. Forestry – The FORECO forestry report summary was distributed to Commission members. Ms. Hebert said that Ron Klemarczyk is working with General Services to conduct a timber harvest at Hall Street waste water treatment plant. 75% of the red pines will be removed due to a fungus and Asian Bittersweet in the area. The site looks like a clear cut and has caused some public reaction. The group discussed how the land would be revegetated and Ms. Hebert said that they would likely hire someone to clear and stump land for future agricultural use. This will be a chip job since red pine has little commercial value.

Ms. Hebert said the Broad Cove Forest timber sale should start in mid-February. She explained that the loggers will be clearing by the bridge and adjacent to the railroad tracks. This is a flat site with few concerns for erosion. The sale will be completed by the beginning of March due to the posting of weight limits on local roads.

Ms. Hebert was informed that tree clearing may have happened on the city-owned property off of Currier Road by the gate. She said that Ron had called the county forester but that it would be difficult to determine the number of trees removed because of the snow cover. Ms. Hebert offered to call the landowner to inquire about the tree removal. The Commission agreed this was a good idea.

- e. Street Trees – Ms. McClure reported that a meeting was held with General Services who was also interested in making a better case for replanting urban trees that had been removed and creating an urban/street tree policy. Ms. Hebert will get any information that is archived together for the Commission to review. Dates are scheduled for the next two meetings; if anyone is interested in attending the meeting, please let Ms. Hebert know.

4. City Council/Planning Board

- a. Other Business - Ms. Hebert reported that the preparation for next year's budget has started. If there are any requests please let her know. Ms. McClure asked about money for a consultant to prepare a plan with recommendations for the street tree program and asked if it was possible to use the forestry fund. The group agreed to look into whether the forestry fund could be used to plant urban street trees or prepare planning studies for urban trees. The Commission discussed the street tree project and agreed it may be a good Antioch University internship or project for a UNH student.

Ms. Hebert said that the Open Space and Recreation Plan was omitted from last year's budget and asked the group if they would like to place the project in next year's budget. The group agreed to requesting funds to update the Open Space Plan. The last Open Space Plan was prepared in the early 1990's.

Ms. Boisvert inquired about money for an intern. Ms. Hebert reported that money is budgeted

for every other year but the Commission could ask for this to become a yearly request. The group discussed the need to have consistency with the landowners and asked if Tanner would be available next year. Ms. Hebert said that she would contact him. She also said that most communication with the landowner was through Planning Office and that this helped to provide the landowners with one contact at the City.

Ms. Hebert updated the Commission on the search for a new City Planner. She said there were five candidates being interviewed on January 15.

5. Easement Stewardship/Monitoring – Ms. Hebert distributed the end of year easement monitoring reports from Five Rivers and the Forest Society. A discussion about blazing boundaries at Winant Park ensued. The group discussed whether or not the painted blazes would be mistaken for a trail. Ms. Hebert has spoken to Ron Klemarczyk and he suggested using green paint to avoid confusion with trail blazes. A discussion about renegade trails at Winant Park ensued. The group agreed that renegades were difficult to control and suggested posting signs.

Ms. Hebert distributed a letter from Tracey Boisvert regarding the Sewall Falls Bridge reconstruction impact to LCIP property.

Mr. Morgan said he has received a phone message regarding the Carter Hill stewardship fund. He has not been able to reach the party as of yet. Ms. Hebert said that she has talked with Five Rivers about setting up a meeting with the owner of the orchard to discuss the stewardship fund.

6. City Open Space

- a. Whispering Heights proposed conservation restrictions – Ms. Hebert said that she had sent out a rough draft by email and Mr. Kane graciously redrafted it to be conservation restriction rather than a restriction that would be incorporated into the deed for the property. The redrafted version was also sent out to the Commission. Ms. Hebert will update the conservation restrictions and resend to members. She will also ask Ms. Pacik to review the restriction.
- b. Other business – Ms. Hebert spoke to Mr. Haller and General Services is looking into other grant opportunities for watershed properties.

Ms. Hebert reported that the Pierce property Purchase and Sale Agreement has been signed by all parties. The project has received LCHIP funds but will not go to City Council until FRPP funding is secured. The Martin property is on hold. Mr. Martin passed away and the heirs are not willing to act at this point.

7. Other Business – Ms. Hebert notified the Commission of the upcoming move of the Planning offices to the third floor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:
Patricia Murray, *Secretary Pro-tem*