CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES - draft
Regular Meeting
April 9, 2014
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall
41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Attendance

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

Members present at the meeting included: Chair Christopher Morgan; Frederick Chormann; Christopher Kane; Kristine Tardiff; Vice Chair James Owers; Pamela Hunt; Tracey Boisvert and Councilor Jan McLure. Senior Planner Rebecca Hebert and Administrative Specialist Patricia Murray from the Planning Division also attended the meeting.

1. Election of Officers

Continued to May, 14, 2014.

2. Minutes

Mr. Kane moved to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2014 meeting and Ms. Tardiff seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Aside: Discussion with Mr. Brian Phelps regarding Mr. Tim Blagden's, Executive Director, Bike-Walk Alliance of NH, request that he attend the Conservation Commission Meeting to discuss contribution to a planning grant for the proposed Concord to Sunapee rail trail. Mr. Owers received an e-mail form Mr. Blagden as did Ms. Hebert who spoke to Mr. Blagden. Ms. Hebert stated that she had told Mr. Blagden that it wasn't necessary to attend the meeting. She explained to Mr. Phelps the history of the Commission's involvement with the Concord to Sunapee rail trail. Craig Tufts of the Regional Planning Commission, attended a meeting and presented an overview of the project. She stated a letter of support was sent in favor of the proposed crossing in Warner at I-89. Mr. Owers stated that the e-mail referred to the Citizen's Institute of Rural Design who puts on workshops about rail trails. They are requesting $1000 from the Commission to provide a match for the grant application. The grant would fund a workshop that would include several towns. Mr. Phelps felt it best to come back at another time when he can reserve some time with the Commission and have a more formalized presentation for the Commission.

Aside: Councilor McLure questioned the cost of the snow removal of trailhead parking lots that was recorded in the minutes of March 12, 2014. Ms. Hebert said the estimated $3000.00 per lot was included in the budget and the estimate was through General Services Department. She will talk with Chip Chesley about the cost.

3. Wetlands Bureau

a. Minimum Impact Expedited Wetlands Permit of St. Paul's School for the installation of cooling loops in the Lower School Pond-
Ms. Hebert informed the Commission that St. Paul's School would like to install a closed cooling loop system to provide air conditioning to the library. The system would be in the

pond and they have talked to DES. The loops would flow on top of the muck in the pond and would be part of the condensing system for the air conditioners. The system will consist of 12 loops with a 1 and a half inch piping with a concrete ballast to keep the concrete submerged. Ms. Hebert informed the Commission that the impact would be very small; 208 square feet along the bottom of the pond. The loop would be completely submerged. There are no impacts to the shoreline. There will be minimal change to ambient temperature of the pond. An analysis showed that the temperature would increase by 2.39 degrees Fahrenheit on a 90 degree day. Discussion ensued about possible impacts on organisms.

Mr. Kane made the motion to sign the Minimum Impact Expedited Wetlands Permit of St. Paul's School for the installation of cooling loops in the Lower School Pond. Ms. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Standard Dredge and Fill Application of the State of New Hampshire for the Women's Correctional Facility-

Ms. Hebert informed the Commission that a presentation was scheduled by the State for tonight but was cancelled. The project will have about 8,000 square feet of wetlands impact. The permit has been approved by DES and was expedited by a petition to the Commissioner. Ms. Hebert passed the permit and approval to expedite the application letter around. Approval is subject to obtaining an Alteration of Terrain Permit. Ms. Hebert informed the Commission that the application will go before the City of Concord Planning Board for a RSA 674:54 review. This is a review of government projects. The Planning Board will not have the authority to approve or deny a site plan permit but it can hold a public hearing to garner comments and convey those non-binding comments to the State. The Commission would like to request that the State come to meet with them.

c. Correspondence-

Ms. Herbert shared a letter notifying the Commission of the Siena Investment development at Old Loudon Road. The project consists of site and building improvements for a retail plaza.

Ms. Hebert also stated that the City applied for an amendment to their Alteration of Terrain permit at the airport for improvements to the runway.

d. Other business-

None

4. <u>Reports</u>

a. Trails Committee – Letter regarding proposed hiking trail off of District #5 Road-

Ms. Hebert read a letter received from several landowners regarding opposition to the proposed hiking trail off District #5 Road. Discussion ensued about the location of the trail and potential hazards encountered with the new trail location. Ms. Hebert said that she has offered to set up a meeting with members of the Trails Committee and the concerned neighbors. She would also invite Commission members. Ms. Tardiff agreed that inviting the neighbors to a meeting to address their concerns was a good idea. Ms. Hebert will set something up before the next Commission meeting.

Ms. Hebert advised that a date needs to be set for the Broken Ground neighborhood meeting. She will set something up for May.

b. Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee-
No update.

c. Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee-
No update.

d. Forestry-
Ms. Hebert reported that the Broad Cove Timber sale is complete. About $21,000 were collected in revenue. Mr. Kane questioned whether precautions were taken to control bug transfer from one timber site to the next when the logger moved his equipment from the Hall Street site to Broad Cove. Ms. Hebert will check with Ron Klemarczyk.
She also stated that Ron Klemarczyk is working with students from the Concord High School ROPE class building a bridge and relocating a second bridge at Oak Hill at the Potter Ridge trail.

e. Street Trees – Update on discussion of street trees & policies and response to City Council referral-
Councilor McLure reported that a meeting was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. She stated the main objective of the committee was to get an intern for the summer to research policies, gather information on what is archived and to make recommendations. Councilor McLure inquired about putting money into the budget for this project. Ms. Hebert responded that the 2015 budget has been through the internal budget review process and she will have to check on flexibility for amendments and that money for this project would come from a different avenue than the Planning Division's budget. Discussion ensued about previous interns and how that was handled monetarily and where any money could possibly come from. Discussion ensued about a City Council dedicated tree committee and establishing meeting times with the City Arborist. Councilor McLure stated that the Street Trees ad hoc committee was generating a list of people who may be interested in joining the group. She also reported that the committee would like to have a link on the City's website that could provide information on street tree policies and tree care and also offer the opportunity for visitors to voice questions and concerns. A meeting is scheduled at 4pm on Thursday, April 10 with General Services and Planning staff to meet with the Street Tree group. The Commission discussed the value of an intern and the possible tasks that person could perform.

Ms. Hebert informed the Commission of the Arbor Day ceremony that is coming up.

5. <u>City Council/Planning Board-</u>
No update.

6. <u>Easement Stewardship/Monitoring</u>-
No update. Ms. Hebert stated that we are waiting on budget. She would like to talk about monitoring at the next meeting to brainstorm about what will happen next year.

7. <u>City Open Space</u>

a. <u>Whispering Heights proposed conservation restrictions</u>-
Ms. Hebert spoke about an update to the deed restrictions for the Whispering Heights property/Broken Ground Conservation Area. DES responded that they need to add more language on the use limitations about protecting the wetland resource. Ms. Hebert handed out a copy of the changes. She stated that the updates include typical language about not disturbing the soils, water systems, wetlands, etc. Chair Morgan stated that the phrase "shall be allowed" is redundant in the document. The Commission suggested removing the phrase. Ms. Hebert also noted that "Section 3" should read "Section 4". Ms. Hebert pointed out the change to section i.3 from "do not impact wetland soils…" to "minimize impact…" and stated that Ms. Pacik reviewed the section change and approved of it.

b. Other Business-
Ms. Hebert shared a notice regarding the Weekly Market Bulletin from the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Hebert also stated that Morrill Farm received an award from the Dairy Farmers of America. They were recognized as the Northeast region member of distinction. Ms. Hebert forwarded the information to the Monitor for publication. Councilor McLure suggested also including this in the weekly Manger's Newsletter. Ms. Hebert informed the Commission that she will send an email to set up the Haller property site walk.

8. <u>Other Business</u>-
Mr. Kane informed the Commission that he spoke with Andy Campbell who would be interested in volunteering to do some sort of project on invasive species on city properties. Chair Morgan stated that he and four members attended a conference on Saving Special Places which touched on invasive species in one workshop. He agreed that a project in this area would be of value. Mr. Kane will contact Mr. Campbell and invite to discuss this further.

Chair Morgan stated that he has spoken to Gail Paige inquiring of her interest in joining the Commission. She intends to send a letter of interest.

Ms. Tardiff moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kane seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chair Morgan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

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