



Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2013
Council Chambers, City Hall at 6:00 pm

NOTES

I. Roll Call

Present: Steve Wood, Gary Dickerman, Diane Harlow

Absent: Cortney Nichols, Nicholas Koloski

City Staff: Danielle Coolidge, Minute Taker

II. Review of Minutes September 19, 2013

Motion: to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2013 meeting.

Made By: Mr. Dickerman

Second: Mrs. Harlow

Vote: Unanimous

III. Old Business

- Rail Trail Master Plan; Senior Transportation Planner; Nate Miller, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Miller stated that he had talked with Scott to develop a list of topics to discuss at a public forum concerning potential improvements that could be made to the Rail Trail and Bobby Woodman Trail. He suggested that instant feedback keypads be used to identify which improvements they should seek grants to implement. Mr. Miller discussed a list of "key stake holders" that should be invited and included at the proposed public forum. He also suggested using various forms of advertising to stir interest in the forum and promote public involvement. Mr. Miller proposed the following timeline: hold a public forum to decide what improvements should be made sometime next month, then draft a plan of proposed improvements and hold a second public forum to solicit feedback on the drafted plan, from there they can make revisions, gain consensus on ideas, and develop an action plan.

Mr. Wood asked if they would include abutting properties to the Rail Trail and Bobby Woodman Trail in their mailing list.

Mr. Miller noted that he would include abutting properties as key stake holders.

Mrs. Harlow asked if he considered inviting the Superintendent of the School District as well as leaders from the High School to the public forum.

Mr. Miller expressed his desire to work with the Planning and Development Department and use city resources to aide in advertising the event. He suggested advertising via email, flyers, mailing lists, newsletters, local TV stations, etc. for the event and seeing if they could hold the event at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center.

Mr. Dickerman noted that the public access TV station could promote the event.

Mr. Wood asked when Mr. Miller would like to hold the first public forum.

Mr. Miller suggested that the first public forum be held either sometime during the week of November 18th or during the first week of December.

Mr. Wood stated that they should refer to the city's calendar of events and chose a date that does not conflict with of events.

Mr. Miller suggested that the event be held November 21, 2013 which is the next date for a Conservation Commission meeting.

Mr. Wood wanted to note that this public forum would not be a Conservation Commission event and that the forum should refer to the section of the trail from Pleasant Street to the bridge that crosses the Sugar River as the Bobby Woodman trail.

Mr. Miller stated that the advertising will be clear and the forum will refer the Bobby Woodman Trail when addressing that section of the trail. He also suggested setting the time for the public forum at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Wood suggested providing transportation for people who want to attend the forum but are unable to drive at night time.

All members agreed unanimously that the first public forum will be held November 21, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Miller asked the board if they had any other discussion topics they would like to add to the public forum.

Mr. Wood suggested that the public be allowed to brain storm ideas at the forum.

Mr. Miller stated that public participation will definitely be encouraged.

Mr. Wood stated that abutters to the rail trail may have questions regarding trail boundaries and right of ways.

Mr. Miller stated that right of way plans will be made available at the forum.

IV. New Business

Mr. Wood stated that the board needs to conduct a site review of the conservation easement at the Tractor Supply strip along the Sugar River.

Mr. Dickerman suggested that the site review be held on a weekend day before the end of October.

Mr. Wood proposed that the site review be held October 26, 2013 at 9:00 AM.

All members agreed to the proposed date and time for the site review.

Mr. Wood read a thank-you letter from the 4H group that received summer camp scholarships from the Conservation Commission.

V. Communications

- NH D.E.S. to the City of Claremont – Complete Forestry Notification # 2013 – 02585, Tax Map/Lot 193-2

Mr. Wood stated they were in contact with timber logging operations to ensure minimum impact to the natural resources at the Moody Park trails.

Mr. Dickerman stated that to his knowledge, the debris left behind from the logging operation did not obstruct any of the Moody Park hiking trails.

VI. Other

Mr. Dickerman stated that they should advertise the Conservation Commission board in order to gain public interest and increase membership. All members agreed.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: to Adjourn

Made By: Mr. Dickerman

Second: Mrs. Harlow

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Danielle Coolidge