



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, November 15, 2018 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 1/17/2019**

Mr. Dickerman called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and asked for a roll call.

I. Roll Call

Present: Gary Dickerman, Scott Magnuson, Kim Gogan, Eileen Skowronski

Absent: Steve Wood

Wayne Schaffer with Plains LPG Services presented an expedited wetlands permit application. They are looking to fill in a 0.03-acre section of wetland next to their main driveway on River Road to prevent roll-over accidents with delivery trucks. It is a wet area with a small stream that is at maximum ankle-deep. The area was originally designed to hold run-off from the lot. Over time, the cattails came in. There is a culvert conveying water into this wet area from the adjacent Canam property and a second culvert carries it away. It is presumed that the water eventually makes its way to the Connecticut River. The two culverts will be connected and the depression filled in. The only wildlife using the spot is redwing blackbirds.

The Commissioners had no problem with the application and agreed to sign it.

Motion: To approve this expedited application

Made by: Ms. Gogan **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Mr. Dickerman signed the application. Mr. Schaffer took it with him.

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. October 23, 2018

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 23rd meeting as presented

Made by: Mr. Magnuson **Second:** Ms. Skowronski

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

The Commission reviewed the report, noting the \$50.39 interest posted in October.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Old Business

a. CT River Conservancy

Mr. Dickerman said the Commission had received another request for a donation (the Commission had just recently donated \$50). Ms. Gogan felt that the Commission's participation in the Conservancy's programs (e.g. Source-to-Sea) makes more sense than a monetary donation. The Commission plans to stay in contact with them and actively shares the Conservancy's information on the Commission's Facebook page. Mr. Magnuson and Ms. Skowronski agreed with that.

b. Stevens Brook Trail Update

Mr. Dickerman said the contract has been signed. It's now just a matter of Lew Shelley finding the time to get the work done. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.

Mr. Dickerman said he and Mr. Magnuson had spent time in area 2 removing invasives and picked up trash on the roadside. Thank you to both!

c. NHACC Membership dues

The Commission received an invoice for membership dues in the amount of \$475. It was agreed the Commission will pay it in March 2019.

VI. New Business

a. Emerald Ash Borer Plans

The Commission agreed to make an inventory of ash trees in the City Center, have it confirmed by Steve Wood, and make an assessment of their condition. The results will be taken to Lee Stevens to develop an appropriate strategy (treat, remove, etc.) and get an overall cost estimate. The Mayor, City Council, and the public will be kept informed throughout.

b. Vic St. Pierre, Director, DPW – Mr. St. Pierre did not appear, no doubt due to the approaching snow storm. These topics will be carried over to the next meeting.

- i. Source Water Protection of Whitewater – letters of support, application submitted
- ii. Composting and Recycling Discussion
- iii. Roadside Ditching Initiative
- iv. Enhanced Filtration

c. Barry Conservation Camp

The Commission received early notice to begin signing up kids that the Commission may like to sponsor for camp during the 2019 summer season. It was agreed to put an announcement on the Commission's Facebook page to gauge the level of interest. The results and appropriate next steps will be addressed at the December meeting.

d. TetraTech Wetlands Permit Application (Addressed above)

e. Instream Flow Program Designated River Prioritization for Protected Instream Flow Study

The Commission agreed that this program did not seem to apply to the Sugar River and Claremont. The Sugar River runs low most summers, but it is not due to human intervention, especially now that the City doesn't need to take water from the river to supplement water from the Whitewater Reservoir. The Commission felt the City did not need to get involved with the program.

VII. **Communications**

VIII. **Other Business**

On a suggestion from Ms. Gogan, the Commission agreed to set aside some time at the end of each meeting for a work session. This way everyone can help with Facebook posts or developing new program ideas. Everyone also agreed to explore the idea of using meeting time to do public presentations on conservation issues that can be aired as separate programs on CCTV. To satisfy open meeting laws, these sessions will be agenda items and minutes will be taken throughout, even if the video camera may not be on.

IX. **Future Agenda Items**

X. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Ms. Gogan **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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