



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, November 20, 2014
Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, Room B, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 1/15/2015**

I. Roll Call

Present: Gary Dickerman, Dianne Harlow, Cortney Nichols, Steve Wood

Absent: Nick Koloski

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. September 18, 2014

Motion: To accept the minutes

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Ms. Nichols **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

There was no finance report.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Old Business

a. Scott Williams, Pathways Consulting, to discuss the Sugar River Stabilization project located at 72 Sugar River Drive

Mr. Williams said he was representing the City of Claremont Public Works Department for presentation of their NHDES wetland permit application. The City needs to address the erosion of the river bank occurring near the sewer line crossing at 72 Sugar River Drive. Mr. Williams showed pictures of the site and explained how Pathways is proposing to stabilize 150 linear feet of the bank, centered on the sewer line. If approved the project will go out to bid in the spring and commence in June.

Mr. Williams said that more than 150 feet of the bank needs stabilization, but funding will only allow for 150 feet.

The consensus of the Commission was that the proposal was the best course of action for the problem and agreed to write a letter to DES in support of the proposal.

VI. New Business

- a. Update on waiver for rail-trail motorized vehicles by City Solicitor, Jane Taylor**
Attorney Taylor was not able to attend the meeting, so the update was postponed to the December meeting.
- b. Rail Trail Master Plan by Nate Miller, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission**

Mr. Miller said he has been working with city staff since last spring to address the improvements requested by the Commission last spring and particularly to look for grant funds.

The City has applied to the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for the funding for those projects, specifically to make:

- sidewalk improvements on East Street;
- crossing improvements at Broad and Chestnut (both of which are “mid-block crossings) to provide appropriate warning to drivers; they are proposing to use pedestrian-activated “rectangular rapid flashing beacons” positioned on both sides of the cross walks at both trail crossings;
- trailhead improvements at Pleasant Street, including a kiosk;
- a survey in that area to resolve right-of-way/encroachment issues;
- substantial drainage improvements on the trail between Chestnut and Pleasant.

The TAP application has been reviewed and prioritized by the Regional Transportation Committee which gave the application the highest ranking of the three projects submitted. This ranking gives the application a very favorable chance of being awarded. NHDOT hopes to award funding by the end of the year. Mr. Miller was strongly optimistic about the application.

Mr. Miller asked for new direction/priorities/action plan from the Commission recognizing the unresolved issues regarding the use of the trail. The Commission asked for the following:

- Conduct survey to establish trail boundaries (from the bridge to just east of Parsons Avenue.; and from the bridge back to Pleasant Street)
- Develop trail connection to Monadnock Park
- Create wetlands board walk
- Engineering evaluation of the bridge
- Car-top boat launch improvements

Mr. Miller said he would take this list to City staff to see how best to get them done.

Mr. Miller said that the Regional Planning Commission will provide mapping assistance for the waiver application at the request of City Solicitor Taylor. Of particular interest is signage along the trail. Mrs. Harlow said that this has already been done. She will coordinate with Mr. Miller.

c. Sugar River Snow-Riders’ trail permission request and other matters by Roger Wright

Mr. Wright was seeking the annual permission for the Snow-Riders to use the trail.

Motion: To grant the request

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Mrs. Harlow **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

Mr. Wright also asked the Commission to determine trail boundaries in various locations and for permission to do some grading in certain areas. Mrs. Harlow said they are already working on establishing boundaries, but that grading will have to be postponed until the waiver is settled.

VII. **Communications**

a. **Thank you notes from conservation camp sponsorees**

Mr. Wood said the Commission had received additional thank you notes from campers and passed them around for the Commissioners to see.

b. **Inquiry about additional “Bobby Woodman Trail” signs**

Mr. Wood said that Mary Woodman had asked him about the status of the Woodman Trail signs, specifically for the crossing at Chestnut Street. She wanted to know if the Commission was planning to put up any more signs. There is one sign at the Community Center, but it was unclear if there were any more. Mr. Wood said he would like a different type of sign for the Pleasant Street trailhead (not a street sign type). Mrs. Harlow said the Chestnut Street sign had not been put out yet, because improvements were planned for that part of the trail.

c. **NHACC Chair Bulletin**

Bulletin received by the Commission.

d. **NHACC Invoice: membership dues FY15**

Motion: To pay \$381 to renew membership with the NHACC.

Made by: Mrs. Harlow **Second:** Mr. Dickerman **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

e. **NHACC Newsletter**

VIII. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

IX. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Ms. Nichols **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

Resource Coordinator