



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**WORK SESSION**  
Thursday, July 13, 2017 6:00 PM  
Visitor Center, 14 North Street, Claremont NH

**MINUTES**  
**Approved 8/17/2017**

Mr. Dickerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski

**Absent:** Kim Gogan, Nick Koloski

**II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)**

**a. June 6, 2017**

Mr. Wood asked to have his contributions under Goal #5 reworded.

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of June 6, 2017 as amended.

**Made by:** Mr. Wood                      **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

Ms. Skowronski said she had gone to Home Depot to talk about supplies for the pollinator garden at the Broad St/Chestnut St intersection. She estimates it will need about 15 plants to fill the 6 ft x 14 ft area. Home Depot will give us 5 plants for free. At the time of her visit, the plants had been marked to \$4.00 each for the size plants she was looking for. She said she was going to go back on Saturday. She said she will also need about 10 CF of garden soil, which costs \$6.97 per 2 CF. So, she will need 4 or 5 bags. Mrs. Harlow had a rototiller that can be used for the project.

It was agreed to continue discussing this later in the meeting.

**III. Stevens Brook Conservation Easement**

**a. Vote to authorize additional cost for easement boundary markers**

Voss Signs discovered that they didn't have the 3 ¾-inch circles that we purchased – only 4-inch circles which would cost an additional \$7.00 (on the total order). Mr. Dickerman had authorized the extra expense so as not to delay the order with the understanding that the Commission would vote on it at the next available opportunity. The City credit card was used to pay the invoice.

**Motion:** To authorize the expenditure of \$7.00 to reimburse the City's credit card.

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

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**b. Prohibited activity signs – update**

The prohibited activity signs have been ordered.

Trash in the Easement

Mr. Dickerman said that Jim Ambrose, co-owner of the Claremont Speedway, had informed him that the trash had been removed from the bank. The next step for the Commission is to write a letter to Mr. Ambrose thanking him for removing the trash, but also to ask that such activities be prevented in the future; also, to stress that the easement area could be an amenity to the future campground.

Ashley Ferry Boat Landing

Mr. Dickerman said that the boat landing had been discussed by City Council at their last meeting. He also said that Garret Graaskamp at Fish and Game has now been contacted by three separate parties from Claremont, which may prove to be counter-productive. Nancy Merrill suggested that the Commission create a plan for the landing to give to Council and ask them to bring it up with local legislators.

**IV. Prioritize goals & objectives of:**

**a. Natural Resources chapter**

**WATER RESOURCES**

Goal #1 Water Resources

Protect and improve the quality of the City's surface and groundwater resources.

Objective No. 1.1: Integrate water resource protection best practices into City land use planning priorities and regulatory updates.

1. Create and adopt a watershed management plan to regulate land use activities that affect the quality and quantity of the City's surface and groundwater resources. The plan should incorporate the tools discussed in this chapter.
  - a. *Research watershed management plans to learn what they are and how they work and how they would apply to Claremont*
2. Update the 1991 Source Water Protection Plan.
  - a. *Get familiar with the 1991 Source Water Protection Plan*
  - b. *Understand how it is to be updated*
  - c. *Determine appropriate party to do the updating*
3. Assess current level of resource protection in zoning, subdivision and site plan regulations.
  - a. *deForest can do this*
4. Integrate wetland and aquifer protection into water resource protection strategies.
  - a. *Need to learn more about this*
5. Work with Parks & Recreation Department to ensure that recreation does not compromise the water resources in or near which they may be located.
  - a. *The presumption is that this refers to access points on the Sugar River*
  - b. *Map these locations; photograph to create record of baseline conditions*
  - c. *Inspect annually*
  - d. *Discuss with Parks & Rec*

Objective No. 1.2: Manage City-owned properties to protect water resources.

1. Finish marking the boundaries of the Stevens Brook Easement area and post the necessary signage.
    - a. *This is in progress*
  2. Ensure compliance with the terms of the Stevens Brook Conservation Easement.
    - a. *This will be ongoing*
    - b. *Accomplished by making and filing annual inspections; participating in development review of the subject parcel and abutting parcels*
  3. Enhance undeveloped buffer zones around City public water supply reservoirs.
    - a. *Assess current state of buffers*
  4. Develop a land management plan for all City properties with emphasis on water quality improvement and protection.
    - a. *Limit to City-owned lands within ecologically significant areas*
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## Goal #2 Floodplains

Maintain regulatory floodplains in the City to serve as flood storage and attenuation areas while minimizing risk to property damage, injury, or loss of life during a flood event.

Objective No. 2.1: Make Claremont a community resilient to flooding.

*All of these objectives should be delegated to the City's Floodplain Manager, Mike McCrory*

1. Conduct periodic reviews of City land use regulations to meet the minimum regulatory requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Amend as needed to remain compliant.
  2. Utilize grants, technical assistance, and other opportunities to evaluate and improve City infrastructure, development policies, and land use regulations to increase flood resilience.
  3. Incorporate, as appropriate, findings and recommendations of the current Hazard Mitigation Plan into municipal land use planning practices.
  4. Map dam failure inundation areas in the City and identify appropriate actions to manage development within those areas.
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## **LANDSCAPE AND GEOGRAPHY**

### Goal #1 Sense of Place

The City should recognize characteristics in its natural landscape that define its character, as experienced by its citizens, and strive to preserve and protect them.

Objective 1.1: Identify and protect important topographic and scenic features in the City landscape.

1. Minimize development on areas with slopes greater than 15%.
  - a. *Should be already addressed in zoning*
2. Identify hilltops and ridgelines that warrant protection from development and develop appropriate protection strategies.
  - a. *Will require everyone submitting "favorite" hilltops and ridgelines and evaluating*
  - b. *Identify property owners & current zoning*

3. Identify important scenic vistas and develop protection strategies.
  - a. *Same as #2 above*

Objective 1.2: Conserve important agricultural soils.

1. Minimize development/impermeable surfaces on mapped Prime Agricultural Soils.
  - a. *Where are the largest concentrations of soils?*
  - b. *What is the overlying zoning?*
  - c. *Are we statutorily allowed to regulate?*
  - d. *Overlay district?*
2. Promote agricultural development and agricultural tourism.
  - a. *Economic development purview*

Objective 1.3: Enhance community use of natural resources

1. Maintain the traditional New England development pattern with a densely developed center surrounded by gradually less dense development and increasing open space toward the City's boundaries.
  - a. *Planning and Zoning*
2. Foster good land and natural resource stewardship (e.g. agriculture and forestry best management practices) of private and City-owned open space through education and outreach efforts. Encourage individual landowners to be good stewards of their own properties.
  - a. *Conservation Plan*
3. Identify open space parcels that have significant natural resource value and/or serve as wildlife corridors for the City or a third party to purchase or obtain easements for natural resource conservation.
  - a. *Ask DPW for road kill statistics to identify the most vulnerable crossing areas*
  - b. *Create ways to provide safe passage for the wildlife or to discourage them from crossing in these areas*

**V. Communications**

**VI. Other Business**

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 when Mr. Wood had to leave.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*de Forest Bearse*