



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 8/20/2015**

I. Roll Call

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

Absent: Scott Magnuson, Kimberly Gogan, Nick Koloski

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. June 18, 2015

Corrections: Pg. 2, 1st paragraph – change “y” to “by”; change “NHAOT” to “NHDOT”

Motion: To accept the minutes as amended

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

III. Finance Report

a. July, 2015

The Commission reviewed the report. No action was taken.

IV. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

V. Old Business

a. Invasive species

Mr. Wood met with Glenn Gladders, Sullivan County Cooperative Extension Forestry Educator to tour Moody Park and discuss the state of invasive species in the park. Mr. Wood read a letter from Mr. Gladders summarizing their findings and suggesting possible follow-up actions. The Commission discussed ideas for using invasives in the park as a means of educating the public about invasives in general and possibly having a work day to remove some of the plants from the park. It was suggested that the Commission team up with the Parks and Recreation department for this endeavor. The consensus of the Commission was to aim for a September date. Mr. Wood will contact Wendy Ward at NRCS in Walpole and Matt Tarr in Durham for assistance.

This matter will be discussed again at the August meeting of the Commission.

b. Conservation Plan

Mr. Dickerman has searched online for examples of Conservation Plans without success. He continues to speak with the Cornish Conservation Commission about their plan. He has also contacted Nick Coates at NHACC for guidance, but has not yet heard back from him.

Mr. Dickerman stated that the Cornish Commission would like to collaborate with the Claremont Commission on plans in the Cat Hole area. It was the consensus that the Commission should seek guidance on conservation easements perhaps from NHACC and from the Cornish Commission. Discussion on this issue will continue at the August meeting.

VI. New Business

a. Retaining wall repairs on the rail trail

Mrs. Harlow and Mr. Dickerman have met with Nancy Merrill and Mike McCrory of the Planning & Development Department to discuss Judith Wells's proposed repairs to the retaining wall at the back of her property. The wall abuts the rail trail. The Commission received a report from Mr. McCrory outlining the P & D Department's concerns and recommendations. Mr. McCrory provided aerial photos and parcel map data for the Commission to review. Mrs. Harlow will contact City Solicitor, Jane Taylor, to discuss possible next steps.

b. Conservation easement at 419 Main Street

The Conservation Commission owns a conservation easement along the Stevens Brook at 419 Main Street (Tractor Supply). Development is being proposed on abutting land adjacent to the easement. The proposed development must be reviewed and approved by the zoning board and the Commission has been asked to participate, both at the public hearing and on the site walk. Neither has been scheduled yet.

The Commission discussed the need to compile and provide a list to the Planning & Development Department of areas that have special conservation/natural resource value such that the Commission can be notified when development is proposed that may have negative impacts on those resources.

c. Update on trail work at Moody Park

Mrs. Harlow asked that this item be postponed to the next meeting as Parks & Recreation Director, Mark Brislin, was unable to attend this meeting.

VII. Communications

a. Wetlands and Non-site Specific Permit 2015-00774

This was informational only. No action was required or taken.

b. Town and City Magazine (July/August 2015)

c. Letter re opposition to Northeast Energy Direct natural gas pipeline

The Commission discussed the letter and concluded that there was insufficient information for them to form an opinion.

Mr. Dickerman suggested that the Commission view the work being done on the Amerigas site.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Dickerman stated that the Planning Board is getting ready to update the Master Plan. He said there are parts of the plan that the Commission may want to pay attention to – in particular the erosion hazards described by Adam Ricker (at the June 18th meeting). Mr. Ricker had explained that the results of the (erosion) study can be used in future plans, e.g. Master Plan, Hazard

Mitigation Plan, etc. Mr. Dickerman said the Commission may want to bring the potential erosion hazards on the Grandy and Red Water Brooks to the Planning Board's attention for inclusion in the Master Plan.

IX. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

Resource Coordinator