



Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2014
Approved 9/18/2014

Site Visit

Present: Stephen Wood, Dianne Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Nick Koloski, John Webster

The Commission met at 203-219 Sullivan Street for a site visit with John Webster. Mr. Webster owns 108 Lafayette Street, with a hydroelectric generating station on the Sugar River there. Mr. Webster has applied for a Wetlands Permit from NHDES to dredge sand buildup in the tailrace area. The Commission was better able to view the property from across the river on Sullivan Street.

Mr. Webster clarified the area of the proposed work. He said that a clam bucket would be used to scoop out the sand and load it into trucks to be hauled offsite.

The Commission noted the thick vegetation and steep slope of the bank where the trucks and loader would be located. There was some discussion about whether locating the equipment on the bank would constitute "working" in the stream bank buffer zone as it is described in the zoning ordinance. Chairman stated that he did not think it did, that the "work" being done was actually in the river itself and not in the buffer.

The site visit concluded at 6:20 and the Commission went to City Hall for the remainder of the meeting.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

I. Roll Call

Present: Dianne Harlow, Stephen Wood, Gary Dickerman, Nicholas Koloski

Absent: Cortney Nichols

City Staff: deForest Bearse, Resource Coordinator

II. Review of Minutes of preceding meeting – July 17, 2014

Motion: to accept the minutes of July 17, 2014 as presented.

Made by: Mr. Dickerman

Second: Mrs. Harlow

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

There has been no activity since June.

Mrs. Harlow presented receipts for the purchase of 15 bags of mulch and 4 hostas for the Bobby Woodman Trailhead improvements. The total cost was \$79.60. The Commission had

authorized Mrs. Harlow to spend up to \$100 for this project at the May 15, 2014 meeting. The Commission thanked Mrs. Harlow for the work she had done.

IV. Public Comment

No public was present.

V. Old Business

a. Public tour of Moody Park

Plans have been completed and publicized for the public tour of Moody Park for Saturday, August 23rd. Mr. Wood volunteered to provide coffee and donuts. Mr. Dickerman volunteered to videotape the tour.

VI. New Business

a. Wetlands applications:

i. John Webster, 108 Lafayette St.

Motion: To authorize Chairman Wood to sign the wetlands permit application of John Webster (file number 47.07) on behalf of the Commission, thereby certifying that the Commission has reviewed the application and:

- a) waives its right to intervene per RSA 482-A:11;
- b) believes that the application and submitted plans accurately represent the proposed project; and
- c) has no objection to permitting the proposed work.

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

ii. Erin Darrow, 1 Slab City Rd.

No one was in attendance to present the application. Because the Commission had questions regarding the application that could not be answered, they refrained from authorizing the chair to sign it.

iii. River Valley Community College

Naomi Prall, engineer for Nobis Engineering, was in attendance to present the application. The project calls for disturbance of 240 sq.ft. of scrub-shrub wetland, including 10 LF of intermittent stream channel for installation of a 6" underdrain pipe outlet as part of the driveway improvements for the College entrance on NH Route 120.

Motion: To authorize Chairman Wood to sign the wetlands permit application of River Valley Community College (file number NHB14-2925) on behalf of the Commission, thereby certifying that the Commission has reviewed the application and:

- a) waives its right to intervene per RSA 482-A:11;
- b) believes that the application and submitted plans accurately represent the proposed project; and
- c) has no objection to permitting the proposed work.

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

VII. Communications

a. Wetlands & Non-Site Specific Permit 2011-01938 (off Ferry Road, Map/Lot 140/13)

Project description: Dredge sediment from 930 sq ft of concrete logs on an existing boat ramp on the Connecticut River. Commissioners agreed that this is a problem every year and that the dredging should be done in the spring so that boaters can have access all summer, rather than when the summer is almost over. The car-top and canoe access is about 100 yards away from this location and is also in need of work. Mr. Dickerman has researched possible grant funds from the NHACC. Mr. Wood said he would contact Nik Coates (Executive Director of NHACC) as well.

b. Wetlands & Non-Site Specific Permit 2014-01896 (1 Slab City Road, Map/Lot 85/18)

This appears to go with the wetlands permit application mentioned above. No action was required or taken.

VIII. Other

Discussion continued about gaining new points of public access to the Sugar River. It was agreed that the Commission will meet at the Visitor Center on September 18 at 5:30 PM to view the lands along the river from the (former) Monadnock Gas Plant to the Sullivan smoke stack. The Commission will re-convene at City Hall for their regular meeting at 6:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
deForest Bearse